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MAGAZINE

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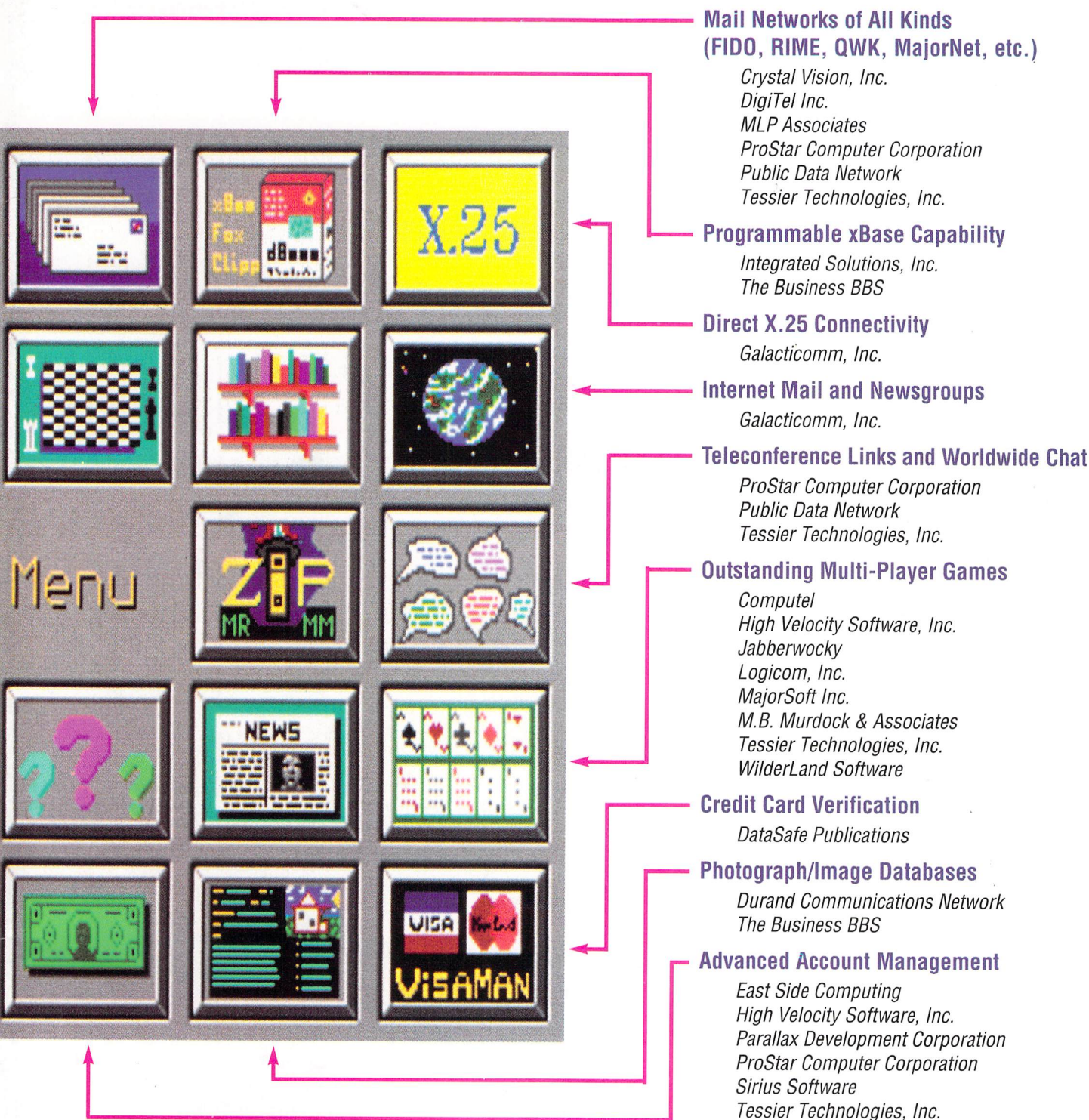
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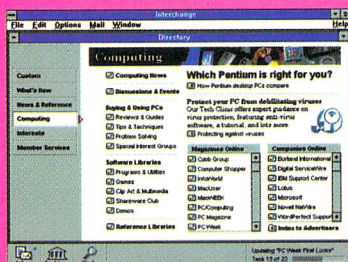
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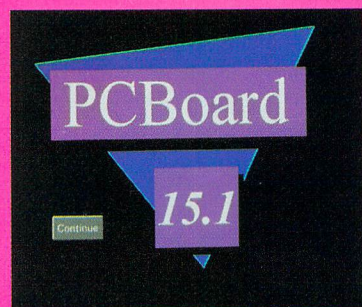
Aspects of the
Computer
Business Cycle

Page 10



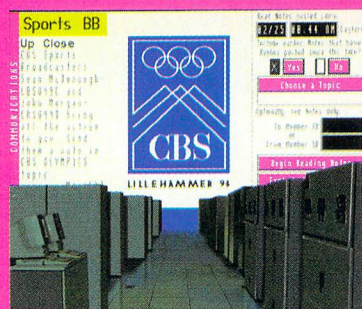
Ziff-Davis Introduces Online
Publishing Platform

Page 40



PCBoard Version 15.1
Includes OS/2 Support

Page 39



CBS Goes for the Gold on Prodigy

Page 90

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITOR'S NOTES

8

Finding the Wall in the Land of the Maroons

DVORAK ONLINE

10

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

12

TELEBITS

34

TBBS Operators Gain COMP.BBS.TBBS Newsgroup	35
Global Internet Backbone Proposed using 840 Satellites	35
U.S. Robotics to Introduce New Courier Modem Architecture	36
ZyXEL Introduces New Rackmount Modem System	36
PCBoard Version 15.1 Includes OS/2 support	39
Ziff-Davis Introduces Online Publishing Platform	40
eSoft Announces Enhanced Chat Facilities for TBBS	42
Hayes Announces Accura 288 V.FC+FAX Model at \$399	44
Delphi and Fox Online	44
Oklahoma BBS Files Suit Against Oklahoma City Police Department ..	46
PC Magazine and ZDI Sponsor First Annual Shareware Awards	46
Mustang to Host Wildcat Mini-Convention at ONE BBSCON	47
NovX Systems to Provide Internet Connection for ONE BBSCON	47
Pinnacle Micro drive Holds 100 CD-ROMs	47
Australian Attorney General Calls for Regulation of BBSs	48
Beginner's Corner - FAX Support for Bulletin Boards	48
The New Virtual Infidelity; CyberSex Part II	50
Comfort in the Computer Room	55

INTERNETICA

58

NetPages - The Internet Yellow Pages	59
TCP/IP Illustrated, Volume i - The Protocols	62
Searching for the Information Super-Highway	66

ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT

74

How Citizens Pursue Political Action - NetBased, Computer-Aided

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THE BIG BOARDS

80

CompuServe	80
Delphi	84
America Online	88
Prodigy	90

MACINTOSH BBS NEWS

92

It's an e.World After All	92
POP for Newton	94
ChildSearch Online BBS	95

EDUCATION LINK

97

Home Schools Online

TELECONFUSION

98

The NetManage Chameleons - Lizards with an Attitude

LEGALLY ONLINE

100

Words, Sound and Image Providers Fight for Their Digital Rights

DIRECT DIAL

109

Cyber Solidarity	109
Miracles in Toronto	111
Washington Wedding: A Tale of Two Boards	112
Boarding in Baltimore	114

LIST DIRECTORY

Baltimore BBSs	116
ModemWatch	33
UUCP Host List	70
BBS Software Vendors List	102
List of List Keepers	118
Boardwatch National List	130
Boardwatch Advertisers	136

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*Picture shows complete 16 user TBBS/TDBS System.

EDITOR'S NOTES

FINDING THE WALL IN THE LAND OF THE MAROONS

The issue of freedom of speech online is a tough one, and one that keeps coming up as the online geography matures. There is a desire on the part of many of the services to note that the First Amendment grants freedom from government interference with our freedom to speak - but it has nothing to do with them as a private operator, and they are under no legal obligation to provide any freedom of expression on their "private" service.

This is actually quite true - and a very dangerous concept for online services to posit. Most of what people do online is communicate. By saying that private services have NO legal obligation to accommodate a certain level of freedom of expression in communications, when communications is the core product offered, you are in effect making a MUCH more powerful statement - that there should be no private services, and they should all be run by the government. I don't think that's what's intended here, but that's how it comes out if you ponder the vagaries of this more than about thirty seconds. I would urge extreme care in this line of thought. Go through this last little loop at least twice before deciding I've lost my water.

If you make your case too hard, and the chant of "free my children" becomes a cause celeb enough people want to take on, I rather gather it doesn't take a leap of faith to picture a movement toward a government controlled "highway" that assures freedom of speech. Not actually a pretty picture frankly. But it's true the color of my car isn't under the approval of each owner of each road in this country. And there is a reason for that. Many public conveyances and byways of commerce are operated by our government and other governments without question.

Or it could continue to be private. We have a private banking system you know. The concept of being "allowed" to operate your computers under the watchful eye of the fed and a couple or thirty feet of printed regulations, and jail time if you hose it up - may not seem real to you. But stop by your local bank or S&L for a visit and ask the president of the institution how his day went. You may hear a story you haven't heard before.

The truth is, this now thriving new online industry operates in the very best of times. It is virtually unregulated, untaxed, and unnoticed. Yes, I know of individual places where this is changing a bit at a time, but right now is the wide open frontier period where anybody with a modem, a bit of imagination, and a little luck can work like a dog for six or eight years and become an overnight success story. And it's an unfinished industry - its final form is anybody's guess at this point.

I rather like the color green. And there are a lot of shades of green. I eat in a local chinese restaurant, the food is good, it's inexpensive, they don't know enough English to give me a hard time there, it's quiet. It has a lot of green in it. Others prefer McDonalds. Chrome and stainless steel is ok. Actually not ok for me personally to eat in, but it's ok that it exists.

Right now we have a lot of shades of freedom online. USENET newsgroups feature virtually no content control at all and I rather like the idea of the existence of a widely distributed online medium that is virtually a free speech zone. Not a backwater, but a mainstream BIG free speech zone. A few minutes in it, and I've usually heard all about Dave, how he lost his job, lost his car, lost his house, and then became fabulously wealthy from the attached chain letter that you too can use to get rich by Monday next. I've seen obscenity sufficiently varied and richly depicted that I really don't know quite what all the terms mean frankly, but I do get the part about them being obscene. And in any particular topical area, I can find that one meaninglessly inane but at least lengthy message that was cross-posted to 300 different newsgroups without actually hitting one where it made sense to have it posted there. And to access all of this you can use the whatever gruesomely misdesigned software you like, and even inflict its vagaries on OTHER readers by mangling headers in almost a free form fashion. But I also find interesting things there as well. That the larger commercial network services are vying to carry USENET on their private systems poses some serious ironies.

On the other end of the spectrum, many news groups and mailing lists are moderated. Some are actually news letters you can subscribe to, but you can't post to AT ALL. The ultimate in non-freedom of speech. And I log onto bulletin boards devoted entirely to K-12 ed-

ucation and kids. Prodigy very closely manages their bulletin boards for a "family atmosphere" with messages severely limited in format and you can only use their software to access it at all. America Online has "happy screens" that are very popular, and give me mild motion sickness. Some allow "adult" discussions, and some allow advertising. Some don't.

We callers vary too. Some like to join a mailing list where just about anything goes topically and the main feature is the list of other correspondents. Others want very strict "topical purity" and don't like having their "time wasted" with off topic drivel they have to pay to access in both ducats and minutes of their life. Some like pornography. And mostly they don't in a forum designed for Fundamentalist Christians to make the final count of angels on the head of a pin.

Then too, one determined Klown With Keyboard can pretty much wreck an entire conference if allowed to. Visit a month later and you'll find Yogi Berra was right - nobody goes there anymore - it's too crowded. The reason for this is simple. We view the online world through a fairly narrow serial screen of scrolling text. There are thousands, and in some cases tens of thousands of messages flowing daily. Immediately, the separation of conversations into threads, topics, forums, and so forth becomes necessary or the medium devolves to useless - typically in less than a couple of days. Further, one person who does not observe topical structures can make everybody thoroughly miserable in just a few minutes of frenzied keyboard activity.

An incident on a mailing list clarified this for me pretty graphically. I personally dislike highly structured mailing lists because the traffic gets bogged down in warnings from the moderator - who's trying to keep the traffic pure - with these warnings. I would almost extend this as far as to say that if you know who the moderator is, you probably have too much of one.

But we do operate a small mailing list for a software product I wrote in my (spare) time titled PIMP. Not only do we allow "disparaging" remarks, that's pretty much what the mailing list is for - i.e. what part of PIMP is the most badly broken today, and what a pleasant world it would be if I personally wasn't such a horse's patoot. It's actually been a lot of fun.

But two of the list correspondents began to exchange harsh words - to the point that any other list traffic stopped entirely. Finally, one of them strung together quite a string of abuse, terminated with the assertion that the other was "some kind of maroon."

I don't know specifically why this tripped my trigger, but we were out of my zone on the freedom of speech issue. Maybe I just didn't know what a "maroon" was, or maybe the irony of a dyslexic attacking an imbecile - in writing - rubbed me the wrong way. Whatever. But I did respond with the "You're leaving or I'm leaving, and if I'm not mistaken - it's you." I suppose that is what you would call a termination. It wasn't very permanent as the marooner apologized to the list and to the maroonee pretty quickly and we all went back to business. But it was enlightening with regard to where the wall was for me personally as a moderator.

Julian Dibble published a piece titled *A Rape in CyberSpace* in the December 21st issue of *Village Voice*. The piece described the case of one Mr. Bungle who electronically raped a handful of denizens of a LambdaMOO - a form of online chat/fantasy service. Subsequently, the citizens of the MOO struggled endlessly with how to deal with it, tried to vote on the electronic "execution" of Mr. Bungle, and finally devolved to helplessness in the face of the freedom of speech issue. Afterwards, the moderator, who had vowed NOT to autocratically take any action unless the group could democratically find a solution, pulled the plug on Mr. Bungle anyway. Another group found the wall.

The online community of 1994 sports an extremely varied and multi-dimensional array of "levels of freedom" of speech. Some freedom is traded for some utility and the amount that's bartered defines its own form of communications economy. And each caller, and indeed each service operator, can pretty much find their own "comfort zone" of freedom. This variegated panorama of online offerings is, to my way of thinking, a thing worthy of some modest effort to preserve.

Whether or not any particular level is constitutionally guaranteed is not just moot, it raucously misses the whole point. Constitutional guarantees are necessarily extreme and nearly absolute. Only individuals can differentiate between various tones and relative levels of relief - or various shades of green for that matter.

Those who advocate total freedom of speech online endanger this concept by leveling all to the same uniplanar standard of anarchy. Those who deny any responsibility for affording freedom of speech to others because they have no obligation under law to do so are intellectually sleeping with the first group and ultimately vying toward the same end. Both poles represent the easy answer attractive to the thought enfeebled.

We should all commit to, and likewise demand, freedom of expression not only for ourselves and those we agree with, but for those we don't. And we must all, to some degree or another, submit to content management structures that work for us to make our communications effective and usable. In searching for the balance between, we define the future of online communications.

What does this mean in a practical sense? It means moving the locus of control of the content management structure as close to the point where caller meets topic as we possibly can. This guarantees the maximum "tunability" to the nature of the topic itself,



and at the same time the maximum diversity in freedom-of-speech zones.

In the hobby BBS community, this has evolved pretty naturally. A typical BBS might carry hundreds of conferences, but it would be very unusual for the owner/operator of a particular BBS conference to personally moderate more than one or two of them, and MOST BBS operators don't moderate any at all beyond a local message area. The "moderators" are scattered all across the country or indeed around the world. A caller would not think of complaining to a BBS operator about the treatment

they received at the hands of a moderator in the "genealogy conference" who lives six states away. And if they did, the BBS operator's only real option would be to quit carrying that conference. The operators don't control these conferences, and are only responsible for them to the extent they choose to carry them, or choose not to.

I'm encouraged to learn that this model seems to be growing in favor on the large commercial services as well. Increasingly, the RoundTable administrators, BBS managers, SIG leaders and so forth - essentially BBS operators who don't have to reset modems, are gaining greater latitude in their powers to moderate their particular topical areas. Even CompuServe, historically a model of monolithic centralized structure coupled with an almost heroic arrogance, shows very striking movement directly toward this model. What it augurs is not only caller choice between services, but even caller choice on specific services. And it debunks the entire concept of "convergence" to one monolithic online entity whose tune we will have to dance to. It just isn't going to happen.

If in the process we do develop a hapless underclass of the electronic living dead Bungles and Maroons who spend their lives wandering from one conference to another to endlessly be booted into the street on a daily basis, I would find all of that entirely predictable and natural. One would think they would form their own zone where they could rape, pillage, and maroon each other ad nauseum, but in truth, they already have found their zone, bouncing off the walls of CyberSpace.

On another topic, we find we've mastered the art of the 32-day month here at Boardwatch. After a sequential series of consecutive months, we find our cover dates out of synch with our newsstand distribution, subscriber expectations, and the calendar. As a result, we've titled this issue APRIL/MAY. We're not actually taking the month off, it will go out about the same time it would have. And we will of course remain a monthly publication. All subscribers will have their expiration month bumped as well so no one misses an issue on their subscription. Hopefully this cover date adjustment will get us back on track with the real world.

Stay with us...

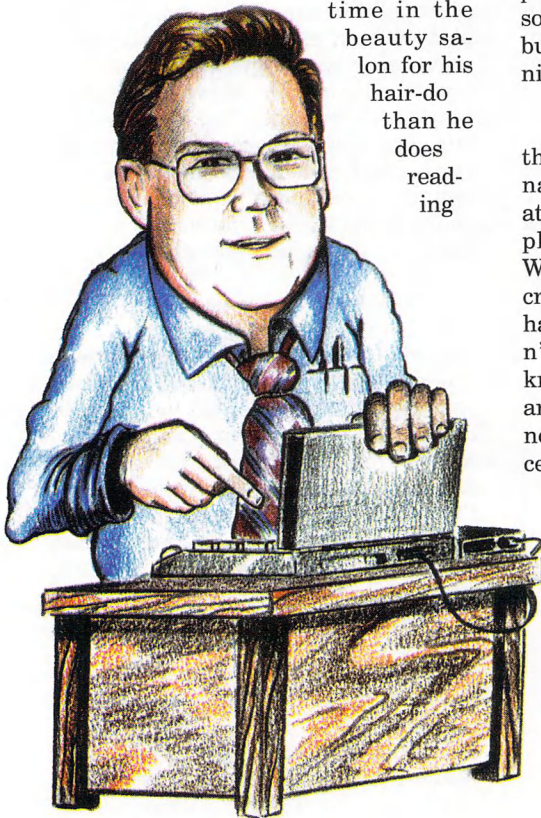
Jack Rickard
Editor Rotundus and NVN war veteran
Boardwatch Magazine

ASPECTS OF THE COMPUTER BUSINESS CYCLE

As we get deeper into the 1990's an old phenomenon has returned. Every time the industry perks up it seems as though all the used car salesmen in the world jump to join the ranks of the computer store salesmen. It's an embarrassment.

Of course, I'm talking about the glad-handing know-nothing who

spends more time in the beauty salon for his hair-do than he does reading



trade journals or magazines about the business. He prefers to read GQ. He's contrasted with the snotty dork who knows everything (or thinks he knows everything).

Soon the business sags because of these clowns and things return to normal. Normal in this business means a slump, of course. During a slump the sales people are knowledgeable and concerned. Suddenly sales start to climb because satisfied customers are serviced and catered to. Business begins to boom and before you know it everyone has to start hiring again. So here come the used car salesmen once

more for another quick hit. (Someday, I'm sure someone will develop a coincident index between declining used car sales and microcomputer sales as these guys go back and forth.)

But who's to blame for all this, anyway? Obviously the store owners who hire these jokers are to blame. They think that anyone can be trained to do anything. The ego of the store owner has to be riding high during an industry boom and so it's easy to imagine a store owner thinking he's god and thus able to turn a car salesman into a computer salesman. "Hey, he's a salesman so he can sell anything. Besides that, business is booming because I'm a genius. Ha ha!"

The only person to really suffer is the customer. The used car dealer, by nature, is an optimist fitted with the attitude that "anything can be accomplished if you put your mind to it." While this is hardly an attitude to be critical of, "putting your mind" toward having experience and knowledge doesn't cut the mustard. Experience and knowledge take time to acquire. They aren't acquired with a positive attitude no matter how hard you try. This concept seems to be lost on these blokes.

My guess is that because they've been effortlessly selling something that they have lifelong familiarity with, namely used cars, they think that everything should be as easy. "Heck, I don't have to read Autoweek to keep up in this business. It's a snap."

This laziness on the part of too many salesmen carries over to the computer business with disastrous results. The disastrous results are irritated customers who feel betrayed by stores who allowed them to get bad advice from these slick salesmen.

The root cause of this scene is the mistaken notion that stores do not sell hardware and software, but instead sell "solutions." Solutions to problems, that is. The concept of selling solutions allows them to think that any experienced sales guy can sell in this industry. But selling solutions is pure bull and they all know it. A solution may result from whatever it is that is sold, but a solution is an intangible and therefore cannot be sold as such. I have yet to see a receipt for a solution

except from a pharmacy. So what is being sold is hardware and software which may be used for some end-purpose desired by the buyer. The concept that the customer comes into a store to buy a solution and the sales pro should start off by finding the appropriate software then wrapping compatible hardware around it is a complete fraud.

Let's say a person walks into the store because he wants to find some software that will help him run his dry cleaners. There is some perfect software for his needs that runs only on a Plunkett 300 microcomputer which uses a m.i.p.s. microprocessor and has a proprietary operating system PlunkDOS. Am I to believe that a store is going to sell this sucker a Plunkett 300? That's the theory and that's what some stores will pull. Now you might say, "Hey, it's the perfect solution to the man's problems. Surely you don't want to sell him an IBM PC running DBASE."

Wrong. No matter how perfect the solution seems short-term, the customer will feel gypped when Plunkett manufacturing goes broke or when the customer finds out that his computer is useless for anything other than the dry cleaning program. So he has to go out and buy an IBM ANYWAY so he can run Lotus 1-2-3 or Word Perfect. If the perfect solution cannot be found for one of the mainstream computers, then the customer should simply be told that it can't be done. "You can't get there from here...yet," is the appropriate answer. "Wait until the dry cleaning package is ported to a mainstream computer with long-term potential for expansion or change." In this example, the Plunkett 300 is like a dedicated word processor. Dedicated hardware is a waste of money.

So only a jerk would sell a Plunkett 300. But this is exactly what happens if the "selling solutions" concept is implemented and it's especially true if it's implemented by the new (ex-used car) salesman. The result is an angered customer and the beginning of the next slump.

This brings us to our next group of oddballs populating the industry: consultants. Every so often the microcomputer business goes into a slump and everyone sees nothing but doom and

gloom all around. A few hapless souls decide that they'll use a consultant to help them get out of the doldrums. They hope that a consultant (who is usually out of work because of bad decisions) will give them the one vital piece of information which will turn their company around and make them rich.

Consultants fees range from \$100 an hour and up. This isn't cheap and the consultants usually bill a minimum of 4 hours. In an effort to save my readers some hard earned bucks, I have collected the wisdom of the top hardware and software consultants and I'm giving it away free. These are the top 6 ideas from consultants on how to get rich in this business.

Idea #1 -Easy Money Add-on Ploy.

Develop a portable computer with an unreadable flat-panel display. Make sure to phony-up the display for any advertisements so it looks readable. The potential for extra profits from add-on monitors improves as the readability of the flat-panel deteriorates. There is good money in add-ons.

Idea #2 -Free Publicity Gambit

Develop some buggy Windows software for the PC. Allow a money-back guarantee. People will install the software and be dissatisfied. But like all windows software they won't be able to fully de-install it and eventually these programs will clog the hard disk. Invest heavily in hard disk companies because people will be adding drives like mad.

Idea#3 -Documentation Scam

Far too many software companies attempt to make their documentation readable and useful. This is the biggest blunder a company can make. The recommended approach is to start a publishing company which sells readable documentation to supplement the bad documentation provided with the product. This is the way to make those extra profits. Microsoft is finally figuring this out.

Idea #4 -Packaging Ploy

The key to success in the software business is elaborate packaging. The old saying, "KISS-Keep it simple, stupid!" was created to fool the naive. In reality you want to confuse the buy-

er with as much bulk and gimmicks as possible. Design your software package with a crank handle on the side. When you crank the handle a song is played and soon a clown pops out of the box with a diskette in its mouth. We're talking merchandising here.

Idea #5 -Venture Capital Sycophant Concept

The best way to make money in this industry is to never sell a product, but instead "think big." You think so big that a product could never fulfill your big thinking. Big thinking causes a gush of excitement to spring from the venture capital community. "Gosh he sure thinks big. I like that," they'll say. And they'll give you millions which you can spend on cars and homes in Aspen.

Idea #6 -Keep it a Secret

If you have a really good product, you'll never have to market it because the world will beat a path to your door. That's a known fact. It always seems to fail because some word of the product finally gets out and the buyer gets suspicious. The latest theory is that if you have a dynamite product keep it a secret. When customers ask about it, say you don't know anything. Soon they'll be begging for it and they'll create a pull through demand that will have the stores calling you. But hold your ground and say nothing.

Let me know how these techniques work for you. I see that a lot of companies have talked to these same consultants.

Dvorak's Recipe Nook

When space permits Boardwatch Magazine will publish some of the noteworthy recipes of columnist John C. Dvorak. While Dvorak is known for his many outstanding columns, only a few people know that he is also a gourmet cook who invents many interesting recipes each year. One of his hobbies is to enter competitions with some of his inventions.

Every year at COMDEX there is a Chili Cook-off sponsored by Micrographics. I won First Prize in the first Chili Cook-off with the following recipe. The first competition was judged by famous Chili experts. In the second year of the competition the same recipe won the People's Choice Award. After that I retired from the competition undefeated.

This Chili is a perfect dish for a hot weekend barbecue. Serve it with a Beaujolais or some good ale.

Tex-Mex Four Bean Chili

Concept:

This is a spicy bean stew that shows off a mixture of four distinct looking and distinct tasting beans. It was developed over ten years of trial and error testing. Canned beans make the dish easier to prepare. CAUTION: It is hard to stop eating this dish once one begins.

Tex-Mex Four Bean Chili Ingredients:

- 1/2 pound smoked ham, diced
- 1 3/4 pound boneless chuck cut in 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 large torpedo or two red onions, diced
- 28 ounces of ground whole tomatoes (canned)
- 30 ounce can of Hunts Red beans
- 15 ounce can of pinto beans
- 15 ounce can of Great Northern beans
- 27 ounce can of kidney beans
- 4 ounces of fresh de-seeded jalapeno peppers chopped
- 1 TBL chili powder (prefer Grandmas brand)
- 1 TBL crushed red peppers
- 1/4 cup Dry Sack (sherry)
- 4 cloves of garlic

Directions:

Saute the onion in butter. Separately and in a large pot put the ground tomatoes, add all of the beans and the crushed red peppers and heat to simmer. Meanwhile when the onions are half cooked add the sherry and boil down by 2/3. Pour mixture into pot of beans. Add more oil to saute pan and brown beef and garlic with ham. Add TBL of chili powder to cooking meat. Continue cooking for 3-5 minutes, then add to pot of beans.

Add chopped jalapenos to bean, meat and tomato mixture. Add tomato sauce (optional). Heat for 10 minutes. Serve in bowl accompanied by wine or cold beer.

IN MY HUMBLE OPINION

Address correspondence to **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**, Boardwatch Magazine, 8500 West Bowles Ave., Suite 210, Littleton, CO 80123, by fax to (303)973-3731, or by e-mail to **LETTERS@BOARDWATCH.COM**. All submissions become the property of Boardwatch Magazine, and may be edited (right - rub a lamp) for length.

Dear Jack,

You may or may not recall my name; I spoke to you briefly at ONE BBSCON and have swapped E-mail with you in the past. You might recall that I was working on an online service for the Hospitality Industry.

I'm writing you to say THANKS! "Thanks for what?", you might ask. Well you have had more than a little influence on my business and personal life over the last few years, and I am completely enjoying the direction that influence has nudged me.

I remember when I bought my first issue of Boardwatch in 1987. Just a few pages, no color, no photos and it looked like it was printed on a laser printer that was low on toner. You've come a long way baby! I have read every issue since, and the knowledge I have gained from your magazine is considerable.

I have attended both ONE BBSCON's. I learned a lot in the sessions and on the vendor floor. More importantly, I met many people that have helped me to learn even more on an ongoing basis. The friendships formed are not a small consideration, either.

I have purchased and used your products. Pimp is still the only TBBS program that I have been able to plug, play and forget. (Maybe you should write some more code!) Boardwatch Magazine online adds value to our system.

I have followed your advice in purchasing products and never regretted it. (TBBS among other things)

After almost 1 1/2 years of effort, we are finally bringing HotelNet and The Digital Inn online. I thought it only fair that you know how much you have contributed to this little enterprise. Like you, I think the online world is ready to explode with growth and de-

mand. I have the smug feeling that I am doing the right kind of business at the right time.

So, thanks! Since we are both in Denver, I'd like to buy you a burger and a beer sometime. Seems like the least I could do, huh? Give HotelNet a call when you get the chance and give it a gander. After all, you helped build it, whether you knew it or not.

I have enclosed a press release, brochures and other such propaganda. Give me a call if you have any questions, or when you are hungry for lunch.

Best Regards,

Steve Adams
HotelNet/The Digital Inn
(303)296-1300

Dear Steve:

Actually I do recall your name and more vividly, your description of an online service for the hotel industry. As you may know, I've a weakness for special topic or "thematic" bulletin boards that map out a specific piece of the online turf and declare ownership. They have long been the most difficult to build to profitability, but long term hold the largest potential for information equity and the best defense against damage by large organizations with profound bank accounts. They are also, coincidentally, the most interesting to visit.

If Boardwatch has, in some small way, contributed to your efforts, we are indeed pleased. The very best luck to you on your service.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack Rickard-

A few months ago you received some horribly inaccurate articles from me that I had written about happenings on the Internet. I entitled those amusements "BandWidth", and I solicited your opinions on them. With the sincerity of a savant, you reprimanded me for writing about things that I could not confirm with hard facts. Your response changed the whole way I looked at my writing, and I reflected over the direction I wanted to go with my work. Again I thank you

for the critique, and would like to announce that I am now a published writer of much more accurate and informative articles. While I do not attribute my success entirely to your advice, I do consider your words to me significant in the way they affect the methods I use to write.

Connect magazine will publish an article I wrote on software piracy and its connections with the BBS world later this year. I have also appeared in various literary magazines with articles I have written about being an expecting father. I have found the Internet to be a useful tool for the writer, and I am nearing the end of an article I am writing on the subject. I would like to get some comments from you that I can use in the article. The question is simple, how receptive are you to material that you receive via Email from the Internet? A growing number of magazines accept submissions by email, and my article discusses the usefulness of the Internet to the writer.

I am writing the article for a small newsletter circulated among the writers special interest group on NVN (National Videotext Network.) NVN is a small network broadening their access to the Internet even as we speak. Offering Telnet last month, and now Gopher services, they plan on adding IRC and USENET groups in the coming months. I want to introduce these writers to the possibilities of the Internet. If you would like to see the article before commenting, then I will send it to you immediately.

Watch for my upcoming article in Connect, and if time permits, tell me what you think. I consider your advice with attention, and your words do not go to waste.

Sincerely,
Steven Elmer Baker
Steven.Baker@AtomicCafe.Com

Steven:

There were these three bulls on the farm. One was the big, bad, head bull. There was a medium size bull, and there was a rather young bull. They had heard a rumor about a new bull coming to the farm.

The big bull - "If some new bull thinks he can come in here and start messing

around with our cows, he has another think a coming!"

The medium bull - "You got that right big bull. He ain't getting nothing around here. I'm with you on that one. Those are our cows and that's that."

Little bull - "Yeah, me too."

Just then, an enormous trailer truck pulled up into the loading area by the road. The farmer and about three of his hands started to fight this ENORMOUS bull out of the trailer. It was gigantic, a hundred and fifty feet long, had one hooked horn growing around in a circle into its right eye, the other was four foot long and broken off at the end. Its feet were the size of garbage can lids. It filled up the whole trailer. And it caused a terrible ruckus getting it out of the trailer. Once out, it immediately charged the trailer and banged a tremendous dent in the side of it.

Big bull - "Of course, the civilized thing to do would be to strive for peace on the farm - a community if you will. Share and share alike. We have plenty of cows. There is plenty of room here. And there's certainly room for another bull."

The medium bull - "Share and share alike I always say. No need to be a pig about it certainly. Oh, absolutely, big bull. We should welcome him."

The two turned to the little bull, who immediately started snorting, pawing the ground, and actually charged the fence in the direction of the enormous new bull. He tore up grass, flung it over his back, bellowed, charged the fence again, and in general made a terrible ruckus, bellowing, pawing, red-eyed, and looking for all intents and purposes as if he really wanted to go head-to-head with this monstrous new hook-horned, one-eyed bull.

The head bull ran over to the little bull and said, "Man, have you lost your cotton picking mind? That is the most ENORMOUS bull on the planet. He will tear you up for breakfast little bull. He'll tear you limb from limb. There won't be enough left of you to mail home. Calm down before you lose your life."

The little bull, still tearing up the turf madly with his display of bravado, replied. "I know that big bull. That's not what I'm worried about. I just want to eliminate any confusion right up front and make sure that son of a bitch knows

that I'm one of the BULLS here - and NOT one of the cows..."

I do not recommend article submissions by electronic mail, though of course we accept them. You may find that surprising, and doubly so when I tell you that most of our writers do in fact convey their columns to us by e-mail, and that it works very well.

Since MOST of our traffic with our writers is via Internet electronic mail, and since we obviously use electronic technology every day, why would I take this position?

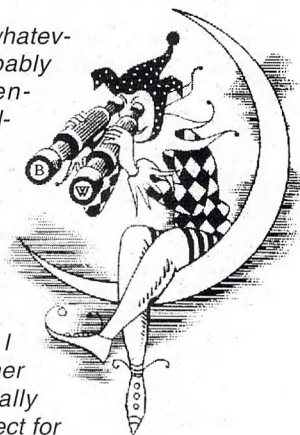
Take a look at our Macintosh column. Statistically, the number of Mac readers, and indeed Mac owners online, is so insignificant you can't find them with test instruments. There is a specific set of reasons we have a Mac column:

1. Bill Gram-Reefer uses a Mac, and he likes them. He advocates Macism in all its forms.
2. Bill Gram-Reefer writes WELL - he's had an uncanny ability to capture the "Boardwatch tone" whatever that is.
3. He sends a very professional package with printed pages - typeset really - indicating bold, italics, special characters, headings, etc. on the page. It includes the ASCII text on diskette, along with color TIFF images of any screen shots or other graphics he wants included - slides or photos when necessary. It is assembled into a folder with his business card inserted. It comes about a month early. It looks, smells, feels, and acts like a very professional package.

I'm of course entirely immune from such peripheral niceties and focus entirely on the "content" of the article - substance over form. Well, I would like to think I am. Actually, like every other editor on the planet, I'm a bit of a sucker for it. Truth to tell, I'd be inclined to publish cooking recipes - well written and professionally presented.

The result is that if "I" were writing for another magazine, I might send them my article by electronic mail at their request because it is timely. Even THEN and even if it was a magazine I wrote for on an ongoing basis, I would STILL assemble a package with the printed pages, graphics files, diskette, business card, photos, photo of myself, etc. into a nice professional looking package and Fedex it to them the same day. If they requested changes or additional contact

information or whatever, I would probably submit THAT entirely electronically. But there would be no instance of sending my "second best" work or in anything less than the best package I could put together - even for a totally unimportant project for chump change.



My father tried to explain this to me when I was about fifteen years old, in the somewhat stoic Bogart manner much the fashion of his generation, noting that it doesn't hurt a bit more to actually work hard all day than it does to go through the motions. This after I'd spent all afternoon moving about 300 brick - a trivial quantity. Fathers are notoriously poor at explaining things to fifteen year-old sons and I of course considered it one of the most moronic things I had ever heard - probably until I was 25 years old and I didn't completely get it until I was 30 or more. After all, hard is hard - that's why they call it hard, and taking it easy is easy, otherwise you'd be "taking it hard" which means something entirely different. It was 104 degrees, my arms hurt, my leg hurt, bricks are heavy, it was humid, the world was round, and the sky was blue. Oddly, as I've grown older, he's grown much wiser - most amazingly even in arrears.

If you're going to play in this game of life, play to win - cleanly, honestly, and in stand up fashion, but with ALL DUE OVERKILL. And don't leave anyone in any confusion ever as to whether you are a bull - even a small one...or just one of the cows. The usefulness of the Internet and global connectivity is to magnify the RESULTS of your efforts, not reduce the effort.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

This is the first time I ever write to a publication, but under the circumstances, I felt I absolutely HAD to write. I am the SysOp of MiniComp Systems BBS in Puerto Rico, and most likely one of the few subscribers to your magazine in this side of the tropics. As many of your readers, I absolutely love Boardwatch. I thoroughly

enjoy your letters section which I more interesting than the message areas on my board. It is the only good thing I can look forward to receiving in my mailbox every month, the only other regular mail I get is my credit card bill. Yuck!

I'd like to congratulate you on the quality of your service. I had a slight problem with my subscription (which I unwittingly allowed to expire). I called your office, and was treated in a kind, professional manner that I appreciate. Your staff helped me discover my fatal mistake and we corrected the situation. My sincerest thanks go to everyone there! I may be missing the February and March issues, but now I can rest assured that I will find Boardwatch in my mailbox, every month for the next 2 years.

On another note, I'm making plans with other SysOps here to go to ONE BBSCON, with a little luck, and some good planning we hope to be there in August. I keep a list of the BBS's in Puerto Rico, available on my board to those interested, and I'd be more than glad to share it with you if you'd like.

Thank you again for a fine publication, and I hope to see you in Atlanta!

Sincerely,

Luis Sala, SysOp
MiniComp Systems BBS - (809) 840-3040
l.sala@genie.geis.com

Luis:

If you had to, you had to, and I for one understand. Very pleased to learn your contact with our subscription team was positive. We try, but good customer service is a tough game - particularly if you're on a steep growth slope. We do better some days than others.

We've actually been taking a lot of heat lately from subscribers over our magazine being "late." Since it don't say Haynes until I say it says Haynes, I was a little mystified by the anger of it all. How can it be late if I haven't finished it yet? But the basis of it all seems to be the cover date. It says March on the cover, and they want it March 1 - actually not an entirely unreasonable demand. The problem is, we seem to have mastered the art of producing the 32-day monthly. After some serial series of months, we're out of synch with the calendar, our newsstand distribution, and

everything else. This month, we're going to call this issue April/May. It will go out the same time it normally would have - as will the next, which will be called June. All subscriptions will have their "ending month" adjusted so no one misses anything in their subscription. And it should put us back in synch - for another couple of years anyway. I am sorry, but I'm peddling as fast as I can.

In any event, we're pleased to learn we're hitting the mark in Puerto Rico, and hope to see you in person this August at ONE BBSCON. We will certainly be pleased to add you to our list of list keepers.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack,

I have compiled some suggestions to improve your magazine.

First: The printing ink. I worked in a press room back when men were men. We used inks based on coal tars and arsenic and cadmium and other deadly poisons. Those inks did not smear! Now it appears that Boardwatch is printed with ink made from soy curds and shale dust. Since you probably don't read old issues (you have them on disk and can search for words instantly) you may not know that your ink smears like crazy when you touch it.

Second: I noticed the smearing because I am always pawing through old issues to find things. How about a CD-Rom with the last 3 or 4 years of BW? PC Magazine did a fabulous job on their first experiment. You could find a cheaper search engine (I recommend dtSearch 703-521-9427). I would pay real \$ for this. So would many others.

Third: Many of your columnists do Herulean battles with new software each month, especially you and Jim Thompson. You must have a love of being brutalized that is akin to masochism. Thank you.

Now if you want to have Jim Thompson's picture in front of a Marlboro race car, with a Marlboro hat, wearing a Marlboro shirt with Marlboro epaulets, double pockets, each containing a full pack, ripping open a new carton, with a weed in his mouth being lit by the CEO of the cigarette company—I say FINE—but he should smile.

On the other hand, the new columnist Phyllis Phleger should make the most repulsive face she can think of to keep us all from falling in love with her.

Yours truly,
David Briars

David:

Your powers of observation are actually quite astute - and timely. I've just a week or two ago thrown quite a fit over ink specifically, and you should find this issue both more poisonous and less environmentally friendly - with blacker blacks, whiter whites, and in fact we may do a laundry commercial sometime soon over it all.

I've also had a conversation this week with a CD-ROM publisher who suggested the same thing - back issues of Boardwatch on CD-ROM with perhaps a few comm programs thrown in. I am so inclined if we can get the formatting and search functions done well.

I'll ask Jim Thompson to smile, and Phyllis Phleger to frown as suggested. Jim's actually a very happy looking and charming gent in person (I know, he's been in person a couple of times and I was privileged to be there to see it at the time.) And I understand that Phyllis actually met the love of her life online on the Prodigy service.

The battle with software and hardware is alternately comical and tragic. I like to characterize it as "testing," but those who observe it from a distance tend to describe it as looking more like three monkeys trying to have sex with a football on a waxed tile floor. We love it. We hate it. And it carries all the sound and fury of a battleground. But it is what we do, and I suppose we do love it.

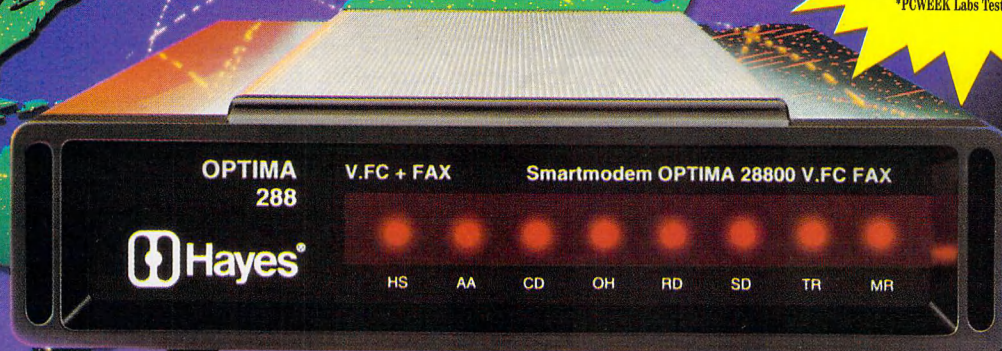
Good suggestions. We'll work on it.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack,

Just a quick note to say thanks for the great magazine. I started reading Boardwatch magazine two years ago and finally got up the nerve to set up my own BBS. Using your magazine and the ads from them I contacted most of the top BBS software suppliers and evaluated their literature. This past January I chose the WILDCAT 3.9 Multi User software and WCPPro Utili-

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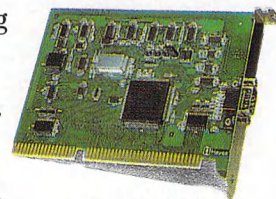
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ties. I set up my BBS and now find my life consumed by it :+)

My business (Financial Planning) has become that much more successful as I provide my clients with information via modem in addition to personal visits. I feel your magazine has given me the confidence to jump ahead with BBS technology.

Lastly, I have to put in a plug for Mustang Software. They have been very supportive and helping me get started. The Company that sold me the Wildcat Software (Victoria Digital Information Service) has provided excellent flow thru support for the BBS software. Both companies deserve a pat on the back for helping new people like myself with our BBS's.

Keep up the good work and I look forward to future copies of Boardwatch!

Cheers,

Gordon F. Currie
FutureWorld BBS
(604)782-8944

Gordon:

It sounds to me like you've been pretty systematic in approaching BBS technology, and there's nothing wrong with that. In whatever small way we've helped, we're pleased. Mustang Software does seem to have gone to extra efforts on the support function, and their WCPPro Utilities go a long way toward making life easier in operating a system.

We tend to talk a bit about the 50 line BBS operated as a business. But I guess I believe the real winners in all this will be the thousands of small businesses and professionals such as yourself that employ this technology as an ADJUNCT to what they are currently doing - a convenient way to provide a real service or added element to their existing customers. The challenge of course is getting it integrated into your existing business in ways that make sense. I've got to believe that those who do it artfully are going to come away winners in any competitive environment.

Jack Rickard

Dear Mr. Rickard,

I have just had the opportunity to read a copy of your magazine and I find it to be of great interest. For a long time, I

and my wife have thought about a business that we could run from home that would require a minimum investment but where if we put in the time and effort could be both intellectually and financially rewarding.

I think we have some unique talents, I am a futures trader, a writer, a teacher and have founded and run my own futures firm before selling it to one of the major brokerage firms in 1990. My wife has a fair amount of experience in computers, and is well organized and wants to work from home. We both enjoy our computers (we're a two computer family, and are curious and creative.) I think we could do well in the BBS business.

My first question is the basic one. How do we get started? I am interested in doing as much research as possible to find the proper way to configure the system and would like some ideas as to the best hardware to use for a system that would have a number of forums and a fair amount of data downloading to go through. Can you recommend some books to read to get a feel for how to get up and running as well as examples of system configurations and costs that we can expect. I'm sure that I will have a million other questions to ask as time goes on, but first let me get to the beach before I try to dip my toe.

Sincerely,
Eric Nadelberg

Eric:

It sounds like you already have a pretty enormous jump on the system. You can write, you have a partner, you like the field, and you've operated a business before. I do not believe you can survey the entrepreneurial landscape of 1994 and find any opportunities anywhere that even approach the online community and electronic bulletin boards for this unique combination of miniscule startup costs and literally unbounded potential.

There is nothing wrong with doing research - classically the first step. But I see a lot of people research this thing to death and themselves into confusion largely because they are viewing the world through a glass darkly. Most of the written references to bulletin boards, or for that matter any computer related activity, implicitly assumes you have the computer and software in front of you as well. Yet for some reason, many read and read and read about bulletin boards and the associated hardware and soft-

ware without having been in the room with any. My advice there is to pick a cheap package, jump and play with it and experiment as part of your research effort. It is only in coming up against the limits of the technology and what it can't do that we can define what precisely it CAN do, and then of course more specifically what it can do for YOUR mission.

As to hardware, a pretty remarkable thing has happened. Years ago someone predicted that the silicon would be free and the software was all that would matter. We're very close to this being true. Depending on what you want to do online, a 486 PC with 500 MB of disk storage is pretty much overkill. And we're seeing even the newest and best 28.8 kbps modems showing up with sysop discounts to the \$200-\$300 range - and even less in some cases.

The software is rather another matter. And I know people who've wandered around in circles over "which one" for years. I'm going to do something I don't do very often and recommend right out loud a book I really haven't had a chance to look at in detail yet. Alan Bryant has a brand new book out that should be available by the time you read this titled "Operating a Successful Bulletin Board System," published by Addison Wesley. I think you'll find this book worthwhile for a couple of reasons. I've known Alan since he ran HIS BBS on a Tandy Color Computer - so he's done it for a number of years. He writes well enough that we've carried articles he's written here in Boardwatch on several occasions. He now works for one of the major BBS software developers (eSoft) and has actually started his own software company, Bryant Software, writing add-ons for bulletin board systems. Most strangely, he's talked his boss into including a copy of eSoft's BBS software, The Bread Board System, with the book at no extra charge - a pretty unusual bundling deal since the software normally starts at about \$299 for a two line system - it isn't shareware and they don't really have any kind of "demo" version that I'm aware of other than this one-time shot. So the title seems to match what you're looking for, the author knows the stuff and can write passably well, and you get a starter software system to get a more practical angle of attack on your problem.

I'll try to work in a review or mention of how to order within the next issue or so.

Good luck.

Jack Rickard

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Dear Mr. Rickard -

I know you've heard this a million times, but you've got another satisfied customer here in Delaware. I've been with Boardwatch for a year and found it to be the BEST magazine for the topic of online communications I've seen. I have a confession, however, to make. I just started reading the letters section in Boardwatch this December. I've seen the letters section in other magazines (of different kinds), and they seem to be boring. However, this was not the case with Boardwatch. I actually found myself chuckling as I read. It isn't your usual letters section.

Now on to the real reason(s) I am writing. Firstly, I have a question. Has Boardwatch ever published a list of Delaware area BBS's in its monthly list section? Believe it or not, we do have about 45 boards in the area. It would be the greatest help to let the rest of the world know we're here (and that we're not part of Maryland or Pennsylvania <g>). Joking aside, I feel that it would be a worthwhile segment for usage sometime in the future.

Also, I have been searching for the past several months to find a reliable Internet/Usenet feed. Thanks to your magazine, I have found a site that is both cost-effective and seems like it will be reliable <fingers crossed>. I haven't yet finished connecting to them, but my stuff's in the mail.

I would also like to, in my last point of discussion, let you know that I think you are doing a good job of fairly covering BBS software. I think that the coverage is proportionate to the number of systems of each kind of platform (e.g. more IBM-bbs coverage, because there's more of us there). It just makes sense.

Signing Off,

David Hudson
dhudson@world.std.com
Imperialing BBS - 302.892.9953.

David:

I am completely stunned, though delighted, to learn we have a million satisfied customers in Delaware. Given the relative size of the other fifty states, we must be doing well. It's true I don't keep track of those matters very conscientiously, but I'll ask Rob. Sounds good to me.

The letters section was caused by Jim Dunmeyer, an irascible but good hearted gentleman from the heart of Ohio. Like you, I was inclined toward disinterest in letters sections, and thoroughly disinclined to sport one in Boardwatch at the time. He was persistent in a way only a Mid-western Dutchman can be - read I could do it or die ignorant, lame and naked, it making little difference to him. And I guess I owe him a great deal of thanks as it appears to have gotten on.

I'm not sure we haven't actually published a list of Delaware boards, though if so it has certainly been several years. I found your letter most timely as we find ourselves perusing Baltimore this issue. Missed you by THAT much - to quote the ever nasal Maxwell Smart.

Finally, I'm pleased you find our coverage appropriate. The most misunderstood thing about Boardwatch, evidenced by the orchestrated mail campaign from NVN, is that we have any obligation to fairness of coverage to vendors in Boardwatch. We may actually accomplish that over time, but it would be incidental to our mission - which we see as being fair to readers. We try to cover that which is of interest and value to the average enthusiast with modem who's trying to get the most bang for their buck - dialing services, or running them. The software platforms, software vendors, hardware vendors, service vendors, et al we assume are all big adult people who operate businesses and can take care of themselves just fine - and the best values there will out in the end. We look for the bargains and power tools - where and how found. And if we find it on a Clive Sinclair ZX-80 computer and have to type it in in hex for you to get it to work - we'd probably give it a shot anyway. And we'd probably do so even if it didn't make numerical sense. I'm unable to picture numbers larger than five anyway without breaking them into groups - which is probably why I was so lost on the number of customers in Delaware.

Pleased you made it onto the net.

Jack Rickard

Hi Jack,

In your Nov. 1993 issue, Macintosh BBS News, you published an article on a new FidoNet mailer for the Mac, MacKannel - to be distributed by ResNova Software. MacKannel would

be offered in three levels, version 1, 2, and 3, and all versions would ship by late 1993. (WOLF,WOLF)

MacKannel ver. 1 did not ship until late 1993, ver. 2 will be available by spring of '94, and its any ones guess when ver. 3 will become available. I understand delays can and do occur, but delays of six months or more (MacKannel ver 2 & 3) is outrageous. I think that's what they call vaporware. It appears ResNova jumped the gun and prematurely announced MacKannel knowing that the only Mac Fido mailer, Tabby, was going to be pulled from the market in late 1993. I wonder if Craig Vaughan, the author of MacKannel, is aware of the shipping dates ResNova Software released to the media.

This has affected me as I'm a sysop of a Mac BBS (about 6 months old) and I've been involved in a life and death struggle trying to set up Tabby so I can add FidoNet conferences to my board. When I read your article about MacKannel, I stopped working with Tabby in anticipation of MacKannel. But the days turned into weeks and then months. Now, I'm back working with Tabby, this is almost enough to make me go insane before my time.

Next time ResNova Software issues a release date on one of their products, make sure you place a disclaimer next to it.

B. Jaime Rodriguez
Libra House BBS
(305)828-0711
Hialeah, FL

Jaime:

I will confess I'm a little torn on this one. First, Boardwatch is about technology as it develops. If you want to read what happened six months ago, and what everyone's experiences have been with a product since then, we're just not the rag for you. We can label that "vaporware" and designate Boardwatch the official vaporware announcement publication if it makes you feel better, but I'm inclined to wager it won't.

You are clearly not alone in your angst however. I see it everyday. We did an article on a new mwave TECHNOLOGY IBM and Best Data were working on last fall and I just got my pants tore off by telephone by a guy who wants one of those modems NOW and it's my fault, as well as IBM's and BestData's, that he

doesn't have one. He's offered MONEY for it and they STILL won't send him one and we've wrecked his life by writing about it. Actually we DID have four of these things to play with here, and we rarely write about total air, but it's a development process and we go to a great deal of trouble to try to talk about what's coming - not what went.

Once you have the current capabilities in your software and hardware, it raises your point of visibility such that you can then see even greater horizons and things to do. And there are those who will listen to these desires and go to work making the tools to allow you that functionality - in the hopes that you'll trade ducats for it when they get it completed. But the need is pressing and timely - you want it NOW.

The problem is that if you had it now, it would simply raise your point of visibility and you'd gain further vision to want something else NOW. The toolbuilders can only build so fast. The frustration mounts, and you take it out on them.

Now realistically, ResNova or any other software developer wants to make products that work and trade them for cash just as soon as they possibly can. You make it sound like a plot to keep the technology out of your hands - a punishment they take devilish delight in dishing out just to tease you into a frenzy. I know a lot of these people, and it just isn't so. They lie awake nights trying to figure out a way to make it happen for you - better, faster, cheaper, stronger, and out the door quicker. But every step forward costs months of toil and aggravation. Meanwhile, you're in a LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE, you may go INSANE [before your time?].

I've a suggestion. Make a frigging pot of tea. Sit down and have a cuppa and stare out a window somewhere - they're like little holes in the wall upstairs where the sunshine lives. When you're done with your tea, go back down and see if you can get your CURRENT wreck of a BBS in some sort of shape by methodically going through the motions of installation, configuration, and maintenance. Maybe chat a bit with some of your callers and find out what's on their mind. Expand your horizons by reading some good 18th century technical literature or something.

You're experiencing Coming Attraction Technology Addiction (CATA) and it's not good for the head. If I understand your letter correctly, you're actually livid

because ResNova didn't release the next three versions of a software utility all on the same day? See if there is a CATA support group in your area. I promise, FidoNet will still be there when you're done, and somebody somewhere will do a program to link your BBS to it.

Twinnings Earl Grey works for me...though I hear they have a new flavor coming out that's supposed to be even better...

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack,

As with nearly every other letter you receive, from whatever source it may be, I'd like to say that I have enjoyed your magazine.

In the last year I have become increasingly confused about the direction that our online community is heading in. I have run various BBS' in various cities across the country and have ALWAYS believed that a network that provides for the flow of information is as vital to the online world as blood is to our own bodies. Wasn't this flow of information our original desire for "CyberSpace?"

Now, we find ourselves caught up in a flurry of rumors and speculation about a "Data Superhighway" that is going to give the online community a badly needed booster shot.

The idea is very intriguing and I find myself thinking of various ways I could use such a system. But as I look at our current struggle with the HR 3627 and how the government is trying to control our right to "privacy" in ANY communication, I can't help but to reflect on George Orwell's book "1984" and wonder exactly how much time we have left before "Big Brother" will take his place.

I, in no manner whatsoever, feel that the Data Highway is a bad idea. In fact, it's time has come and it is necessary. But of what use will it be to us if we cannot maintain some semblance of our own lives or of our privacy? The government has proven before that it is paranoid and has proven it once again with the case of Phil Zimmermann. How are we going to trust a government that WE founded that cannot trust us?

I guess that my main concern now is that the data highway will only give

the government better control over it's own citizens. Will we be able to communicate with another individual without having the government "eaves-dropping" like the lady next door? Will our privacy be threatened because the people on the hill feel like we MAY be talking about them?

I understand the need for security in our nation. But I feel that there is a necessary stopping point for all governmental control or "democracy" begins to resemble a cattle drive.

Respectfully,

Russ Rogers
1:383/2000,
Cyberlink of San Angelo Tx

Russ:

I fear you've pointed up one of the great paradoxes of the '90's. We have proposed and are implementing a communications structure that naturally tends to empower individuals, freeing them of the bounds of time and geography to deal with each other directly, one on one, or many to many, on a global basis. The same administration that officially endorses this, has just this last week issued OSHA regulations without a vote that virtually makes cigarette smoking illegal in all public places nationwide, is hell-bent on socializing our entire medical system so that you will have to have government approval to get a bandaid, have successfully regulated the sale and distribution of firearms, are currently working on state approval of how and whether you can raise your own children, and is in general launching the most serious attack in the history of the United States on all personal liberties where and how found. They want vendors of all communications devices or technologies to "build-in" a back door so the government can monitor communications effortlessly from a bunker in Virginia after the fashion of Zeke in the movie "Sliver." In the heat of debate over the Clipper chip, they have finally dropped all pretense and publicly admitted they want to ban encryption entirely unless it's government approved encryption.

Left unchecked, and with the tacit, nay conspiratorial, approval of a leftist (not liberal) press, they will enslave North America beyond any spectre ever conjured by images of the Soviet Union or the cold war. I do hope, perhaps in vain, that prior to my passing from this earth,

the next generation of Americans - including my own children, somewhere find the moral strength of character to overthrow what will be by then the tyranny of a totalitarian state. My generation, raised in the fifties and sixties, not only cannot stop it, but they are the cause of it - the Judas generation of democracy. Our fathers and uncles literally fought and died to preserve it, and we, the baby boom generation have given it away with naught but a pathetic whimper of whining complaint. A bitter legacy to leave behind, as, on a global basis, democracy and personal liberties always were a relatively rare, and American thing.

My greatest regret is not just that it was done, but that it was done in cowardice. They have piped into our homes images of terror, rape, murder, drug abuse, violence, child abuse and pornography, and the very worst our shining society has to offer, and then offered us an illusory promise of safety, from an illusory and manufactured danger, in exchange for our liberty. With government welfare checks, divorce "reform", and a labyrinth series of rulings on family property rights, they have dismantled the concept of a nuclear family. Cowering in abject fear to the point that we almost don't go out of doors any more and have indeed ceded the streets to the depraved. Divided, isolated, and valueless, we have meekly accepted the trade - safety for liberty. We will lose the liberty, we will be not even a smidge safer, but most of all, we cower. I cannot face my own son, two years old this month, without shame.

The ultimate irony for me personally is that the tool used to accomplish this was communications technology, primarily television, but increasingly as you point out, it will be all forms of future communications that holds the power to make it total. If they can regulate personal habits such as cigarette smoking, health care, child care, gun ownership, and the like, they certainly won't hesitate to regulate a "national infrastructure" of such power and influence. There is no further moral imperative to "not" regulate anything in the name of individual rights. We are well down the slippery slope and there really is no hope of reversal. In ceding the little liberties, we ultimately forfeit the big ones as well. That the most visible form of enslavement will be data communications, I have no doubt. It's just the universe's way of saying "Jack, you're a jackass."

Jack Rickard

Jack... I run a multi-Line BBS with a designated adult area. To gain access to this area I send out a form to users who request access. This form is very lengthy and I thought I covered me pretty good against any type of legal suit for distributing adult material.

I recently came across a message that stated that any gifs showing an erect penis OR depiction of actual sex acts in progress was illegal to distribute on my BBS. I have Adult CDs online and 95% of the pictures fall under this category. Later that week, the person who posted this message retracted it and said that he investigated it further and found it to be untrue!

I got a complementary copy of SysopNews in the mail just after that and there it was, word for word the exact thing that the user told me before... No erect male organs or sexual acts in progress... And this was per the EFF!

I can't seem to find out which is accurate!! Am I running my board illegally?? I've put a hold on my adult areas until I get this resolved and let me add that my adult users aren't to happy about it either!

Can you or another one of your readers clear this up once and for all??? What are the guidelines to distributing adult material on a BBS!

Also, if anyone wants a copy of the adult authorization form that I use as an example, please let me know. I've spent alot of time on it, and have consulted with some legal advisors and feel that it does a pretty good job of covering my Arse...

Don Oldenburg Sysop,
Missing Link BBS
1:121/34@Fido
OLDENBURG@Aol BBS:
608/755-1449

Don:

I'm always struck by the desire of BBS operators to display garishly sexual images and at the same time design some kind of "form" or disclaimer that will protect them from all consequences. While I guess I believe you should be able to post whatever you like, I know of no such segue from reality, or of any form that "covers your arse" in an airtight fashion.

That said, the comments you attribute to the EFF are not only false in fact, but no such statements were ever made by the

EFF, anyone at the EFF, or as far as I can detect, by anyone clued to what the EFF is. Laws regulating erotic and pornographic images vary widely by locale, and it is possible there is such a law somewhere, somehow. I wouldn't know. Check with your local law enforcement agencies or hire a lawyer.

I do know that the electronic mail message where this information derives from was a total hoax, an obvious one at that, and that any reputable publication unequipped to make that determination directly could easily detect it as a hoax with a two-minute phone call to the EFF office. Sounds like SysopNews missed an easy call to me.

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack:

Would you consider doing an article on OS/2 connectivity to the Internet? OS/2 TCP/IP truly is a gem. FTP download session in one window while reading newsgroups in another and "telnetting" in another. All this on a SLIP connection! I am not militant on the support of any one operating system. However, communications support in OS/2 truly is one of its strong points. I'm sure multi-tasking Sysops can attest to that. Thanks for a great mag.

Stephen Durfee
stephen_durfee@vnet.IBM.COM
Raleigh, NC

P.S. Oh yeah. IBM has a DOS TCP/IP product too (imagine that).

Stephen:

I'm continually perplexed by OS/2. We're currently trying to install it and connect it to our Novell LAN, and I have to tell you that so far it's a mini-nightmare, the support from either Novell or IBM and/or both is a modern day atrocity, and we're struggling. Our objective actually is to test and play with the TCP/IP package for OS/2, currently in a 2.0 release, and I am assured from all sides an excellent package. If it flies, we were also going to use it as a bit of a test bed for the OS/2 support we think we'll see in some of the BBS packages. We may never know. If we get there, we'll write about it. If not, we won't. Perhaps it is simply beyond our technical expertise. I would find that surprising, but I spend a lot of time around here surprised.

Jack Rickard

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A.J. Janschewitz
Connecticut Department
of Revenue Services

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Hi!

Just wanted to express high regards for your excellent articles on the Internet in the March issue of BoardWatch Magazine. I think you have focused very clearly on the important connectivity issues and have done a great service to many bbs users and sysops who want to be more involved.

I also want to give you a "heads up" on two items that may be of interest:

1. In 3 weeks a new book called 'The Internet Unleashed' will be available by SAM's publications. At 1380 pages, the book will have 62 chapters on all aspects of the Internet, a diskette with windows-based software for slip connections and other goodies. Cost will be \$44.95 and the ISBN # is 0-672-30446-X

2. People are starting to look for interesting places to visit on the Internet. I would like to call Diaspar to your attention. Our free software called Dmodem allows for graphics, video images and tele-operations via dialup and Internet Telnet session. It also allows background downloads while chatting in the talk lines. I recently did a tele-op session receiving video - while also chatting and downloading a file via Internet telnet session. For as little as \$250 (for a frame grabber) anyone can send video images real-time (about 1 per minute) as well as email and post them on bulletin areas. Our graphics are "text-compatible" and can survive most text-only data paths.

Here's the latest on our lunar colony project:

Lunar rover model completes 2 weeks on online operation and testing

The miniature rover model used on the LTM1 moon base project has completed 2 weeks of successful testing online. People all over the country have "driven" the vehicle by tele-operations (remote control) and seen video images from it. When using Dmodem 2.13 software (for 386/486 PC's), it is possible to receive video images from the model rover while operating it.

The Lunar Tele-operations Model 1 (LTM1) volunteer project uses a control computer to operate the vehicle and convert the video images from the onboard camera to the DMG video format. Uptime was over 20 hours a day the first week and almost 24 hours a

day the second week. Tele-operations sessions have run from a few minutes to several hours, with data links from 2 to 6000+ miles. Tele-operations works both via dialup modem and via Internet telnet session - including video image reception. The DMG video format allows video images to be sent over most data paths - images can even be emailed.

Since LTM1 is a volunteer project to build a lunar colony model with multiple tele-operated model vehicles, there is always room for more "moonlighters" to volunteer some time and talent to the project. Anyone interested should email project leader Jzer0 (note the zero not O in the name) on Diaspar.

Additional information is available in the Virtual Reality conference, LTM1 topic.

LTM1 is sponsored by the Diaspar Virtual Reality Network and can be accessed by modem at 714-376-1234 or via Internet telnet at diaspar.com. The free Dmodem software allows operation and video images via dialup or over Internet telnet - making it possible to tele-operate vehicles using the Dmodem standard from anywhere in the world.

All best wishes!

David H. Mitchell
diaspar@cerf.net

David:

You're going to let people "drive" on the National Data SuperHighway - literally? We'll try to get in to see it soonest. What do you do to ensure sobriety? Will my normal Allstate Insurance cover this? Does Dmodem feature controls for Dgas, Dbrake, Dclutch, Dsteering wheel and Drearview mirror?

Jack Rickard

Dear Jack,

On behalf of the RsaNET admin staff and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to THANK YOU for the publication of the RsaNET User choice awards for 1993.

I was delighted to see a complete section in the January issue of Boardwatch, dedicated to BBSing in South Africa. We from RsaNET where honored to be a part of the publication.

THANK YOU once again, and hopefully we can do the same at the end of this year.

Kind Regards

Ian Gerada
ian.gerada@netline.co.za

Dear Ian:

Not at all. In fact, we owe you a debt of thanks for providing us with this fascinating information about BBSing on the dark continent. I would ask that you give some serious consideration to getting together and funding expenses to send at least one representative from among you to the ONE BBSCON in Atlanta this August. We'd love to learn more about you in such a forum, and I think I can guarantee that they will take back as much or more than they bring.

Jack Rickard

NVN - NOT VIET NAM

"What the hell is an NVN?"

This seems like a particularly crass and ignorant thing for the editor of an online publication to print - especially the editor of a publication which is running full page NVN ads. Perhaps you should use your modem to call 1800-336-9092, sign on to NVN and do some exploring. You may find humor in the above statement, but to the users of NVN it only shows the prejudice you feel for certain services. And if you don't try the service to see what it offers, and learn what it's about, then please either refuse to accept the advertising dollars or stop slamming the service.

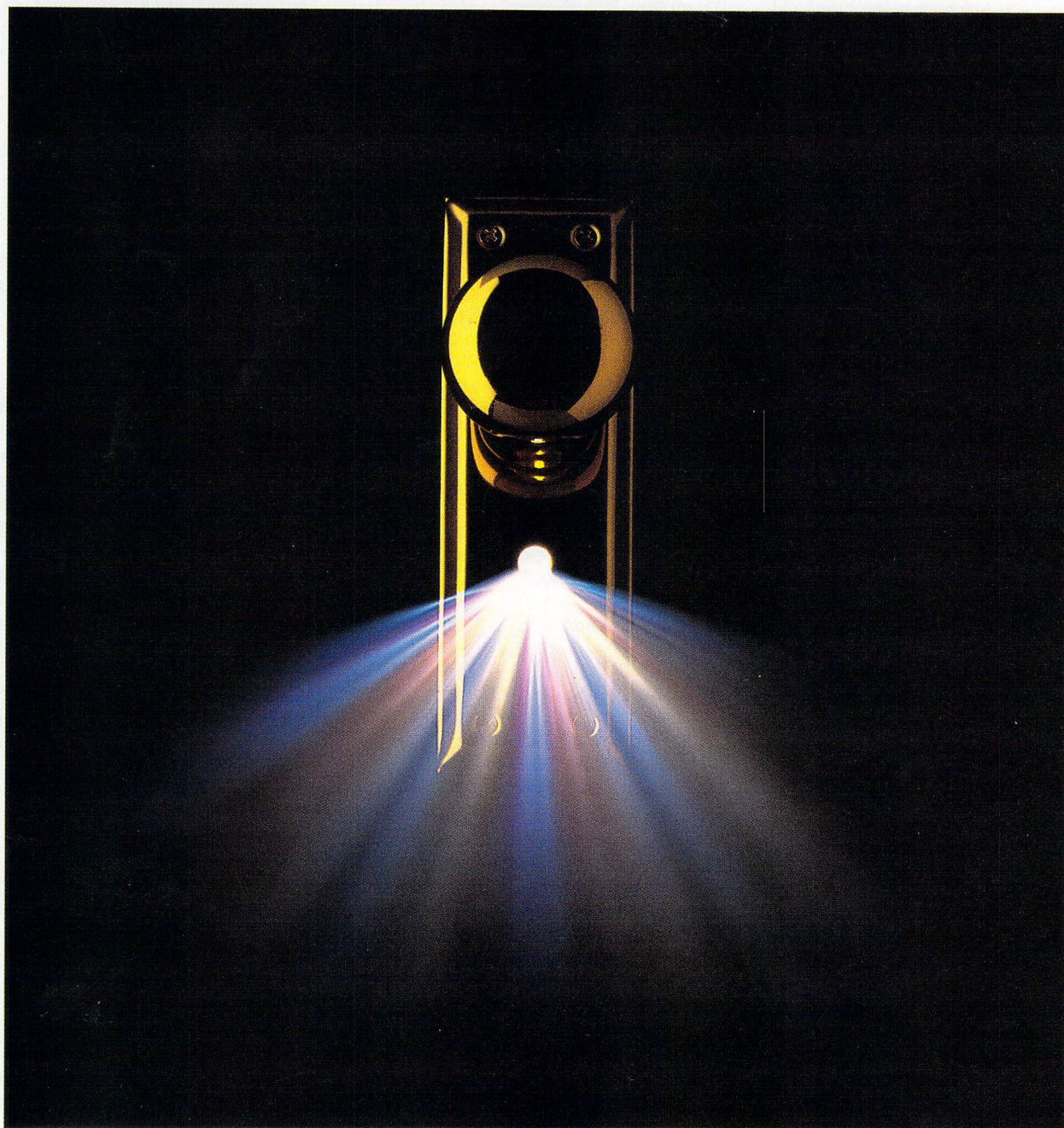
Sincerely,

Cheryl Simmerman
Assistant Sysop
Needlecraft Forum
Quilts Forum

Dear Mr. Ricard,

I am greatly surprised you, being the editor of BoardWatch Magazine, and all, responding to one of our Sysops with a comment of "What the Hell is an NVN?"

I am sure that by now this has become one of those Was my Face Red....moments since NVN advertises it's on-line service in your magazine. I am also



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quite sure you are now being bombard-
ed with answers to your question. I
would like to add that I, too, having
been on Prodigy for 4 years, tried CIS,
AOL, and DELPHI, have found all I
want and need in an on-line service
with NVN. In my opinion, NVN far ex-
ceeds these other services in their Cus-
tomer Service Dept alone, the one main
factor in my cancelation of Prodigy.

After you do a little research, and IF
you print what you've learned about
NVN in a future edition, maybe THEN
I'll purchase your magazine.

Sincerely,

Patty Keys
PKEYS@NVN.COM

I just read a message concerning your
magazine and behavior. I have never
heard of Boardwatch magazine. The
editor must be poorly trained to speak
that way in the first place and, in the
second place, to be uninformed about
his advertisers.

I think NVN should place its ad else-
where. Actually, I joined because of
word-of-mouth. I previously sub-
scribed to Delphi, Prodigy and GEnie,
all cancelled with finality. Compuserve
and AOL were never in the running.

Audrey De Lisle

Dear Mr. Rickard,

You recently asked "What the hell is
NVN?". Aside from being a company
that takes out a full-page ad in your
magazine every month, therefore pro-
viding you with \$\$, NVN is a wonder-
ful on-line service which offers more of
what *I* want, for less money. I speak
from experience, since I am a refugee
from Prodigy, GEnie, and America On-
Line.

Within the next few days, I suspect you
will find out more about NVN than you
ever cared to know. Hopefully, this will
cause you to include NVN the next
time Boardwatch has a reader's poll.
And maybe you will even find it in your
heart to issue a well-deserved apology
to NVN for your comments and actions.

Sincerely,
Kathy Pearson
NVN Member [36;40m Rainbow V
1.25

Attn: Mr. Jack Rickard

This letter is to inform your publica-
tion that it is extremely distressing to
be so blatantly overlooked by a maga-
zine which publishes advertisements
for NVN. While the "highway" may be
large, not every BBS advertises
through you. At a minimum, you cer-
tainly should be aware of those who
pay your way.

Had you simply said, "We are unaware,
but will certainly never make that mis-
take again," it might have been over-
looked. But, "What is an NVN?" Real-
ly, Mr. Rickard, you owe every one of
us who enjoy the innumerable services
on this fine board an apology for such a
flippant remark.

Rest assured, whether you know who
we are or not, we will continue enjoy
the fine atmosphere created by NVN
for a very long time.

Mary Ellen Knox

Attn: Jack Richard

What the hell is an NVN?"

I'm very surprised, Mr. Richard, that
you don't know "what an NVN is",
since your publication runs advertise-
ments for it. Is your magazine in the
habit of publishing advertisements
without knowing what they are for or
who is doing the advertising? I would
hope not, but I wonder.

NVN, National VideoTex, is an on-line
service. NVN offers it's members a
wide variety of services, as do other on-
line services, but at an affordable price,
unlike other on-line services.

As a member of NVN, I was offended
by your remark and at the same time,
embarrassed for you. For a man in
your position, an Editor, to have no
knowledge of what NVN is, makes me
wonder about the quality of your publi-
cation. Evidently, you accept money
for advertising, without knowing what
it is that is being advertised. Isn't this
risky business? I would hope that you
will do a little research and learn more
about the business that you are in.

Perhaps Mr. Richard, the feelings of
others, many of whom purchase your
publication, are of little importance to
you. However, I believe that you owe
NVN and it's members an apology. I

also believe that this apology should be
as public as your recent comment.

Sincerely,

Nola G. Beckum
NVN Member

attn: Mr. Jack Rickard

In the March issue of your magazine,
you responded to a letter from a Sysop
of the NVN service. It was not a kind-
ly response from an Editor, re: "What
the hell is an NVN?"

NVN has become a wonderfully helpful
bbs to a group of collectors, of which I
am a 'member'. We traveled from an-
other network that radically changed
it's format, searching various bbs's en-
route. We settled on the NVN system
because of the patient sysops, the help-
ful service folk, the considerate billing
people, etc. The willingness of the net-
work to evolve and try out ideas that
we present, and to provide services,
like free, open classes for us to learn
about some new topic, or how to use a
feature, etc., are novel, creative meth-
ods that my group enjoys. We feel wel-
come on this service!!

Thanks for your time,

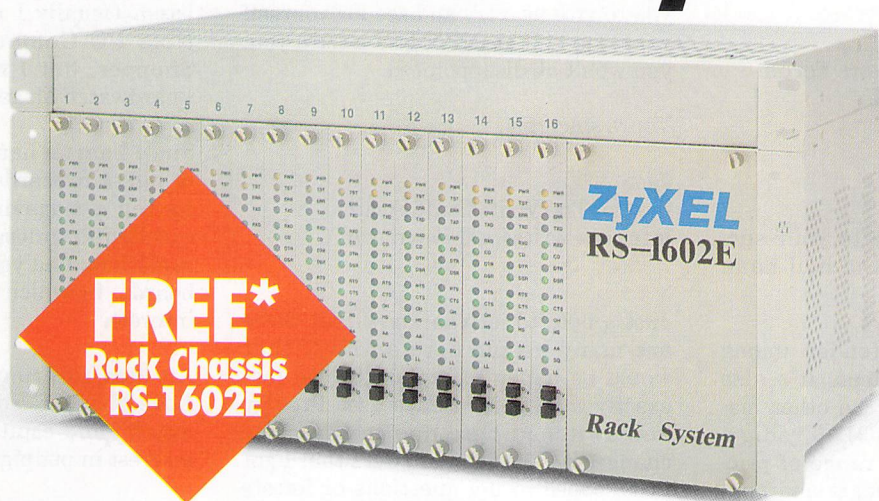
Karen Pratt
Find me on NVN — via HOBBY, Col-
lectibles, McD(onald toy collectors).
I'm "McTurbo" :>

Jack Ricard:

This is in regard to your comment
"What the hell is an NVN?" in the
March issue of Boardwatch. I expect if
you looked through the magazine at
the ads you would know quite well
what an NVN is. Just because you
have no personal experience with this
service does not mean we are not here,
alive well and having fun in large num-
bers. I would do as well to ask "What
the hell is a Jack Ricard?" as I have
never heard of you! My not having
heard of you doesn't lessen your hu-
manity, does it? Likewise, your not
having heard of NVN does not mean it
is something for you to look down your
nose at and make such remarks about.

Myra Kotrla

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Model	Description	SysOp Price
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U-1496RE	Rack Modem Cards	\$249
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In reference to your recent statement about NVN..... What The hell is a Boardwatch?

John Lindsay, motorcycling forum sysop, NVN.

What is an NVN?

NVN is the National Videotext Network that pays to advertise in Boardwatch! So much for biting the hand that feeds you....

It is also the home of the Numismatic Collectors Forum - the BEST online numismatics forum available, with live conferences hosted six days a week!

Now here's a question for you: what is a Jack Rickard?

Linda Hedrick
Asst. Sysop
NVN Numismatic Collectors Forum
XMITCHE1@NVN.COM

Dear Mr. Rickard,

I'm writing in response to your succinct question: "what the hell is an NVN?"

Not only is NVN a contender among the major online services, it's also much better value than the other majors (GEnie, Delphi, AOL, Prodigy, Compuserve) offering a range of pricing plans to fit every budget and non-prime time rates of only \$2.50 an hour.

NVN offers more than 80 forums on a variety of subjects, including health related, computer related and lifestyle forums, as well as multi-player games, real time chat and conferences, software libraries, travel services and much more.

NVN has had internet mail access for several months, and this is included in the monthly pricing plan. We also now have TELNET access at no additional charge and will have more internet related services in the near future. If you consider that Delphi charges an extra \$3 a month for its internet access (as well as a nifty \$19 for its 20/20 pricing plan), NVN is already the better value. If you also consider that people wishing to access NVN via the internet can choose a pricing plan of 50 hours for just \$25, you have a definite bargain. Apart from local BBS's, do you know of another pricing plan that comes close?

Despite all this, NVN has something else that stands it apart and that is its dedication to customer satisfaction. NVN offers a free help forum as well as free downloads and support of several offline readers designed to make member access to the network as cheap and painless as possible. I don't know of any other network that does this, do you? Our client service department goes out of its way to make sure the needs of our customers are met. Management listens and responds to complaints and actually makes changes. The sysops and staff of the various forums are always available to their members whether via suggestion areas in the individual forums, in conferences, or by email.

In summary: NVN is a major online service with excellent rate structures, exciting forums for everyone, games, chat, email and internet access. I urge you to give us a try and see for yourself what the hell an NVN is. I assure you, you won't be disappointed.

Yours sincerely,

Jace
SysOp, The Write Stuff Forum
internet: writestuff1@nvn.com

Just a note to let you know that there are many people here on NVN that would be happy to explain to you just exactly what it is. I have used Prodigy and switched here due to the price change and the form answers that I got in response to my questions or letters to Prodigy. The sysops here are very friendly and informative and answer questions personally. If you would like to know more about it I'm sure the powers that be here on NVN would be happy to give you a guided tour and I'm sure you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Jan Becker, an Happy NVN user

Mr. Rickard.

After reviewing your comment about who is NVN, I feel I have to respond. I'm a former Prodigy member that switched to NVN nearly a year ago and have never been happier with a service!!

I'm very active here and have never felt more welcomed nor valued as a customer before being here. so much so that a few months ago I became an Asst. sysop here. The Sysops here on

NVN interact with the patrons and become a part of the "family" here.

I would like to ask you to please take a look at this Board. It has great potential and bends over backward to make everyone at home. I was distressed to find that you can so callously take large amounts of advertising dollars and then dismiss us so flagrantly out of hand like you did.

Rather unfair???? Yes.

Gail Thompson
TLACEY@NVN.COM
Asst. Sysop Family Forum
And happy about it.

Dear Mr Rickard:

I was just told that your magazine existed. Usually I read Byte and sometime PC Computing or Computer Shopper, but I have never heard of Boardwatch Magazine.

Since I am on line a lot, with a number of bulletin boards, I think the idea of having a magazine about BBs is tres excellente, unless I've misunderstood something and your mag is about surfboards, in which I have no particular interest.

An idea to promote your magazine: Lose the "D" so it becomes "Boarwatch" and capitalize on the growing interest in pet pigs!

Or you could turn it into "Boardwatch/Boarwatch" and run pictures of pigs surfing. This would make your magazine unique. As far as I know, there has never been a magazine about surfing pigs.

Robin Miller,
COMEDY@nvn.com
NVN COMEDY SYSOP

Dear Sir:

In response to your statement "What the hell is an NVN?" I'd like to point out to you that NVN is not only an excellent national online service, but is one of your advertisers as well.

Actually, on hearing about your comment the first thing that popped into my head was "What the hell is a Boardwatch?"

Searchlight BBS

...you won't believe your GUIs

The Graphical User Interface is here to stay. Your callers love the dazzling displays and powerful features that Windows and OS/2 provide. They don't want to give that up just to call your board.

If you just want graphics, you can choose any BBS program that supports TeleGrafix's Remote Imaging Protocol. But if you want the power that only a true GUI provides, then you need Searchlight 3.5.

RIP support, not RIP service

Beauty—like our competition's RIP support—is only skin deep. They still display text in 20-line chunks. They make you press *Enter* to confirm choices. And make you tag items by typing line numbers.

And they can't create RIP screens. So you have to buy a paint program and spend hours drawing screens that match your menus.

Searchlight believes in doing things first, and getting them right. In 1987, we released the first BBS with a full-screen editor. In 1988, we added Lotus-style menus. In 1993, we were first with RIP support.

Our RIP support isn't tacked on—it's built in. We generate RIP screens on the fly. We give callers pick lists, scroll bars and dialog boxes.

Is there really a difference? Listen to Boardwatch editor Jack Rickard: "Searchlight has incorporated RIP technology to an amazingly integrated level with their BBS package... It looks hot."

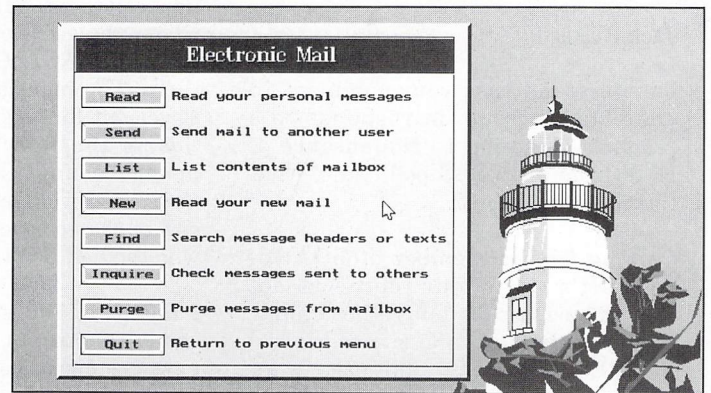
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Callers like the things Searchlight 3.5 does. Sysops like the things Searchlight won't do.

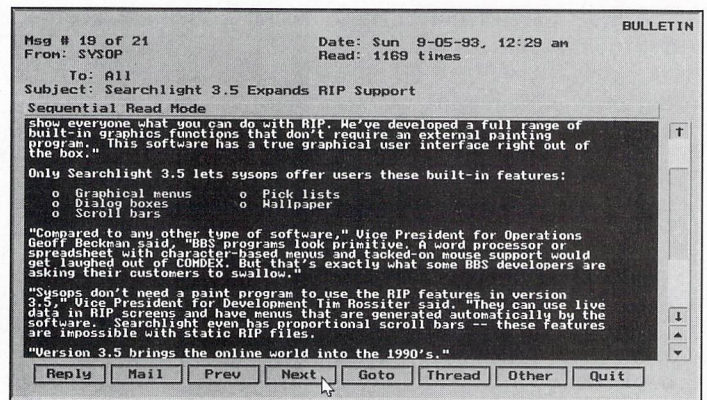
We won't charge extra for DigiBoard compatibility or tech support. Our remote DOS shell is built in. Our 30-day, money-back guarantee is unconditional, with no "restocking fee". If you want to add lines, we credit all your purchase price toward your upgrade.

And we don't want to sell you a terminal program. We include TeleGrafix's RIPterm with every copy of Searchlight, so you can give every new caller a free, RIP-compatible terminal.

So call us for your demo of Searchlight 3.5 today. And see why our sysops and their callers say that Searchlight just isn't like the other GUIs.

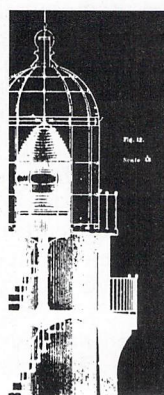


The lighthouse was an existing RIP screen. The RIP menu on it was automatically generated by Searchlight.



The scroll bar on our RIP message reader lets you read mail line by line. To jump anywhere in the message quickly and easily, click on the bar.

\$99	single line	\$299	1-10 lines
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A valid question might be what someone with your obvious ignorance of both the industry and your own magazine's operations is doing in your position.

Steve Thelen
STHELEN1@nvn.com

Jack Rickard:

I understand that your comment in your March issue, in response to a reader's objection to the absence of NVN from your BBS poll, was "What the hell is an NVN?".

Coming from a member of BOARDWATCH's staff, your reply was not only unbusinesslike but rather stupid, particularly since the same issue of BOARDWATCH runs a full-page ad for NVN.

Is this your approach to increasing BOARDWATCH's circulation? Ask Prodigy if they wouldn't like to have a few refugees back from NVN.

Better still, ask your editor how he feels about your comments.

Dean Coffey
DCOFFEY on NVN

Dear sirs,

It has come to my attention that your publication has seen fit to publish a very childish and un-professional comment concerning the National Video-text Network (NVN) BBS. Rather than blindly showing his ignorance, wouldn't a prudent editor do a little research before asking such an inflammatory question? I suggest you curb your urge to act childish in front of your readers, and start reading the advertisements appearing in your own magazine. NVN is a fine service which spends a great deal of money advertising in your "Rag". Have you forgotten where the money to publish BOARDWATCH comes from?

Angry in Maryland

"WHAT IN THE HELL IS AN NVN?"

It's nice to know that there's someone out there who would actually bite the hand that feeds them. <she says sarcastically>. Check your advertise-

ments, you'll note that NVN has shelled out some pretty big bucks to advertise in YOUR magazine! You've got quite a bit of nerve there, my friend. You've lost an account for your magazine.

I've been on NVN since April of '93. I very much take exception to your very ugly comment. I find NVN to be a terrific on-line service, far superior to the greedy *P, AOL, GENie and the rest of them. The management knocks themselves out for their users, I cannot say this for the other services. NVN is an up and coming service who, at the moment, are working on a GUI. By the end of the year you'll know EXACTLY who the hell NVN is.

I feel very indignant towards your crude remark. I wonder what other nasty remarks you have to say about other smaller services. Your comments are uncalled for. For this reason I will no longer read your magazine. Taking responsibility for what is included in your magazine (ads and all) is something I doubt you take seriously. There are plenty of other magazines around who will.

Mrs. Bunny Serianni

Dear Mr. Rickard,

Although I have never seen a copy of your magazine (sometimes it is hard to get things out here in the hinterland) it has come to my attention through a very reliable source that you posed the question: What is an NVN.

I am disabled. I am basically confined to my apartment except for a short trip out now and then. I spend a lot of time on the computer reading and writing on some dozen local boards and I like to maintain at least one national service. I used to be with Prodigy. I enjoyed them, but they were exceedingly slow in screen presentations. I generally spend my time on the billboards. It is my best way of communicating and "talking" with others...sharing ideas and the like. Prodigy's latest price raise overwhelmed what little budget I have in my fixed income for such services while cutting back the board usage tremendously before additional charges accrued.

I looked around for another service. Since my main emphasis is the boards, this was my major pricing feature. Compuserve, Delphi, GENie, AOL and

others were nice but some were too expensive, some where long distance from the hinterlands or they charged a per-hour amount for connection to a "remote" local number. Then I heard about NVN.

When I first joined it was only \$5.95 per month with unlimited boards. This has changed a bit but for my needs it is still the best bargain I can find. It is not as glitzy and colorful as was Prodigy, not as comprehensive as Compuserve and the others...but for me it feels just right. I am a small town boy and this board feels like home.

I do not interact with as many people as on Prodigy, but I have found those that are on NVN to be very bright, helpful and enlightening. They really seem to care about each other and the system seems concerned about all of its members...something I never really felt at Prodigy. I always felt like a number there.

Though the prices have recently gone up and the hours cut back, NVN offers some specially designed off-line readers that allow me to read and write off-line and do all my "talking" without having to be connected to the service. I download literally hundreds of messages and upload my replies in less than 20 minutes a day. I like that. On Prodigy, which sent me a free month to look around and come back, I blew the 2 hours per month board limit and came no where close to being as connected to others as I am at NVN.

I would hope to see you visit with us at NVN and get more input than just my experiences. I think you might like it.

Sincerely,

Charles F. MARSTON Jr.
CMARSTON@nvn.com

What the hell is a BOARDWATCH?

Miles
Almost Cincy, Almost Ohio

MLBOYD1@NVN.com
MilesLB@AOL.com
MRVJ07A@prodigy.com

Mr. Jack Richard,

I live in Central NJ and try as I might, I haven't found a newstand yet that carries your magazine. In fact, outside of a

Quote from March, 1994 issue of Boardwatch, page 31

"What the hell is an NVN?"

- Jack Rickard

Editor and Publisher, Boardwatch

Here's just a sample . . .

Adventure Games Forum • AIDS-HIV Forum • All About Books Forum • AMIGA Forum • Aquaria Forum • Archaeology Forum • Around America Forum • Astrology & Holistic Sciences • Astronomy Forum • Automotive Forum • Aviation Forum • Boy Scout Forum • Chat Club Forum • BBS Forum • Computer Games Forum • Computer Graphics Forum • Computer Networking Forum • Computer Programming • Comedy Forum • DeskTop Publishing Forum • Diabetes/Hypoglycemia Forum • Disabilities Forum • Education Forum • Family & Home Forum • Fantasy Sports Forum • Fishing Forum • Flight Simulator Forum • Food & Wine Forum • GameRoom 1 • Gardening Forum • GEMS Senior Forum • Genealogy Forum • General Games Forum • Gifted Education Forum • Great Outdoors Forum • Ham Shack Forum • Hobby Forum • Home Exchange Network Forum • IBM PC & Compatibles Forum • Internet Forum • Investors' Forum • Just For Kids Forum • Legal Forum • Macintosh Forum • Maintenance & Home Repairs • Mental Health Forum • Movies Forum • Multimedia Forum • Music Forum • Native American Forum • Needlecraft Forum • Numismatic Collectors Forum • Nursing Network Forum • NVN Help Forum • Offline Reader Forum • PC Life Column • Petland Fourm • Pets & Animals Forum • Philatelic Forum • Philosophy Forum • Photography Forum • Poet's Forum • Politics Forum • Quilting Forum • Real Estate Forum • Religion Forum • Satellite, Cable, Consumer Electronics Forum • Science Forum • Science Fiction Forum • Small Business & Entrepreneurs Forum • Soap Opera Forum • Society For Creative Anachronism Forum • Sports Forum • Star Trek Gaming Forum • Substance Abuse Forum • Sysop's Picks • Talk Show Forum • Tandy Forum • Tax/Accounting Forum • Technology & Quality Management • Teen Forum • Television Forum • The First Precinct Forum • Travel Forum • UFO's/The Unexplained Forum • UNIX Forum • Windows Forum • Write Stuff Forum • Internet Mail, Gopher, Telnet and continuously expanding Internet features. . . .

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Gee, Jack, where have you been?



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rumor of your existence mentioned in an NVN (they are small enough to cover any upstart online magazine with limited distribution) forum article, we wouldn't even know of your existence.

What I would like would be a list of some newstands within the 088 postal sectional center where some vendor might have taken a chance and offers your magazine for sale. Perhaps if you advertised on NVN you might get some national distribution and I would find out that you are indeed much more than just a rumor.

Thanks,
Howard Sanders
HSANDERS@NVN.COM

Mr. Jack Rickard -

I understand you are the editor of a magazine titled "Boardwatch" and that you are not familiar with the online service National Videotext Network, called NVN for short. I just wanted to post you a message and let you know that I am a very satisfied customer of NVN. They are not as big, and do not get the publicity, that other online networks like Prodigy and America Online and Compuserve do, but they are a wonderful online service, and a number of my friends and I enjoy the service immensely.

Thank you for allowing me to comment regarding my favorable opinion of NVN!

Geri Ann Sefton

I have been a member of the National Videotext Network (NVN), for about one year. I was very surprised to hear that you were not aware of this BBS. I am told that they do advertise in your publication, although I have never seen your magazine.

We are a very active system, and were not happy to hear you comment "What the Hell is an NVN".

JEAN CANUEL
FALL RIVER, MA.

Jack,

I was disappointed with your comments about NVN. I am the cosyop on the motorcycle forum, and we have a lively enthusiastic, group of people who really enjoy cyberspace. Most of us are old

timers, former prodigy and genie users, who really enjoy the management and atmosphere at NVN.

Paul R. Glassman NVN user
AUTO2@nvvn.com

Dear Editor,

NVN is a national, online network. It promotes electronic communication just like CI\$, Prodigy, AOL, GEnie, etc. NVN is a small network compared to those I just mentioned, but I can tell you two things it does better than Compuserve without comparing Customer Service levels.

1) NVN has more up to date multiplayer games than CI\$ does.

2) It's cheaper than CI\$.

Also, it isn't really polite to say "What the hell is a XXXX" when the "XXXX" is running full page ads in your magazine. It tends to annoy the company running the ad. It also doesn't look good with prospective clients, when they see an editor bashing a company paying for ad space.

Aradath1
ARADATH1@NVN.COM
GM for the multi-player game Aradath on NVN

Attn: Mr. Jack Rickard

What is NVN? National Videotext Network is a wonderful network which provided a warm welcome for many fleeing Prodigy refugees. On the forums I frequent, the sysops are readily available, friendly, and helpful. The "tone" of the postings generally encourage and welcome all opinions without posters bursting into "flames" as on the Internet. In my experience, it has been a wonderful place to be - even though I kept a basic Prodigy plan so the grandchildren could do the kid's stuff, I don't even bother to use their bulletin boards. There are a variety of offline readers available for NVN which make it quick and easy to read and reply to the posts with a minimum of on-line time. It runs faster than any other service I've used. Also, I can use TELNET to get to Internet locations and plans are in the works for more Internet services. So - if you don't know what NVN is, you really owe it to yourself to find out.

Carole

CDOYLE@nvvn.com
Stone Mountain, GA

Dear Mr Rickard,

I see, by your response to a recent Letter To the Editor, that you don't know what NVN is...even though NVN advertises in your magazine. Perhaps you should check out your own ads. I am a small business owner/manager, of a company that is in it's 11th year of business. And I know, that as an advertiser, I certainly would be insulted if the Editor spoke unkindly ie "What the hell is an NVN" about my company, who was in fact contributing to the support of his magazine.

NVN is national online service, based in Texas. Like other online services it has numerous forums, multiplayer games, Chat, News, and access to The Internet. In addition to having a membership on NVN (National Videotext Network) I also have been a member of Prodigy for over two years. So, when I say that NVN is a service worth knowing, I speak from some experience, and a basis of comparison.

In the ongoing battle for market share, in the online community, NVN is a relative newcomer building for the future. May I suggest that you check it out, and see for yourself.

Sincerely,

Anne Edwards
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Dear Mr. Rickard,

I was very disappointed to learn about your response to the letter, which queried about the negligence in including NVN in its poll. It also explained what the service was.

I found your reply, "What the hell is an NVN?", rude, curt, and absolutely unnecessary. For all the advertising NVN does for Boardwatch, I find it amazing that you have no idea what "an NVN" is.

Well, to answer your blunt question, NVN is the National Videotext Network, which now has over 50,000 members. It's an online service just like all the others included on your poll. Not only is it a quality online service, with a variety of things to do, such as "real-time chat", bulletin

boards (or forums) for just about every subject matter, and even a place for the younger kids (5-12) to hang out (which you won't find on hardly any other online service), it also has the cheapest rates of any other service in business. With a Historical Forum, Kids Forum, Hobby Forum, Chat Forum, Aquaria Forum, Family Forum, Education Forum, Gifted and Talented Forum, and many, many other forums, as well as many online educational services, such as the American Academic Encyclopedia, the "NVN bookstore", the "NVN bookshelf", and numerous other services in the sports, entertainment, and educational fields, NVN is an outstanding service for an extraordinarily low rate.

So, next time you receive a letter from someone who mentions NVN, perhaps you can explain to the general public what exactly "an NVN" is.

Thank you very much for your time. I hope that, someday, you look into the National Videotex Network, for it has a lot to offer that I am sure you would enjoy.

Cordially,
Jina Moore

Dear Jina, et al:

I am widely known for being rude, curt, and above all - unnecessary. After contacting NVN, we can find no support, from them at least, for the 50,000 figure you cite. They refuse to discuss the number of accounts on their system. Wherever you got it, go check again. We don't know either, but we know that's the wrong one in any event. A guess? About 7,500 regular users. But who knows, it's very much a guess.

We received 60 or so e-mail messages from NVN callers about this six word response. All were orchestrated by a posted call to arms on NVN by the NVN management. Every one indicated they had not actually seen the magazine, were completely confused about the "poll", and took great umbrage at the response anyway. ALL but a handful were from forum sysops on the service - not callers.

"For all the advertising NVN does for Boardwatch," seems to be the core of the complaint, and a strong reprimand for "biting the hand that feeds" us. You imply that we do have some obligation to be familiar with the NVN service. We do not. But that's really not the issue.

Did you know that CompuServe reduced its rates by 40%?

A Special Offer for Boardwatch Magazine readers:
Order NavCIS Pro (see ad below) and receive a **free** CompuServe Membership Kit, a \$15 usage credit, and get NavCIS Pro for just \$69.00 (list price \$99.95). Everything you need to use CompuServe is included. Just mention this special offer. Call Dvorak Development at 303-661-0345.

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The concept that we erred by not including NVN in a list of services such as Prodigy, CompuServe, AOL, Delphi, and GEnie, which Trooper Bixler Sr strongly took us to task for, is absurd on the face of it. We left out DOZENS of services, including ZiffNet, by way of example with over 200,000 users, BIX, The Well, and many others not only the equivalent of NVN, but much larger. There was in fact no "poll" of commercial services at all, it was a BBS contest ballot where we asked specifically, if peripherally, if they also used any of the above named services as well. It was the "short" list by design. There are PCBoard systems in Boardwatch with larger user-bases than NVN.

But relative size wasn't at all the point of my comment, and has never been a persuader at Boardwatch. We review single line systems occasionally that only operate after dinner. It was a reflection of precisely what 99.9% of our readers would think after reading Trooper Bixler Sr.'s comment. I personally am probably more familiar with NVN, or at least its early history, than some of its employees. It started as U.S. Videotel, and we accurately predicted disaster for them almost five years ago, in print, when they entered into the ill-fated Sourceline fiasco fostered by Southwestern Bell. The series of "gateway" disasters was something we followed for several years, and watched a lot of good services killed off completely by this poorly executed concept. A U.S. Videotel spokesman at the time informed me confidently that I had it completely wrong, that telco gateway's were the future, and that Sourceline would long outlive Boardwatch. I proved remarkably prescient in my analysis at the time. And I don't think he works there anymore. I've also received a hurricane of faxes from a very disgruntled, but confused, user of NVN determined to tell the world what a bunch of devil worshipers they are because someone told her basically to shut up. From the tone of the faxes - this was probably good advice. But the point is, NVN suffers from a lack of name recognition. I put that lack of name recognition in print in less than a line - a succinct line at that, rather than beat up Trooper Bixler Sr. in public. Probably one of my best in recent issues. In response to a demand that it be listed with CompuServe, it was apropos to the point of comedy.

If NVN's service is as good as you think it is, it will prosper with or without my blessing. We are in an environment of unbounded opportunity for such ser-

vices. With their relatively low price and Internet connectivity, I'm going to guess they'll do pretty well. And I do sincerely hope that they do - as I hope everyone in this adventure does. But writing and complaining to ME that they aren't treated with the same recognition as CompuServe, isn't going to make it happen. And posting a message on the service asking all the sig-ops to send me e-mail protesting my Compulsive/Obsessive Asshole Disorder (COAD - we do have a support group now actually) isn't going to either. Status and success online are just not mine to grant ladies. We show people things we find online. That's the sum and total length of our rope.

As to the advertising, you misunderstand about a dozen things about Boardwatch, which is quite forgivable since you have never seen the publication. First, NVN doesn't advertise "for" Boardwatch, it advertises "for" NVN. It has begun doing it IN Boardwatch, and apparently to some success. There seems to be some implicit understanding that this causes some tilt of the editorial table. It does not, it has not, and it will not. Better yet, call some of our long-term advertisers and find out what it feels like to get the real ax handle in Boardwatch. So far, you've only been ignored. These are grown up people trying to make it in a sometimes unforgiving business, who realize the value of getting an occasional bit of bad, but truthful, and better - early - news about where we think their products fall short - or for that matter where they excel. And they've further watched first hand the demise of other publications that lost credibility specifically by doing what you suggest we do - tilt the table in favor of the advertisers. The ultimate value of that to everyone is approximately zero. Boardwatch's position in the world is about as good as our last issue. If we pull some fast stuff approximately once in a row, our readership would throw us into the streets post haste and without benefit of clergy.

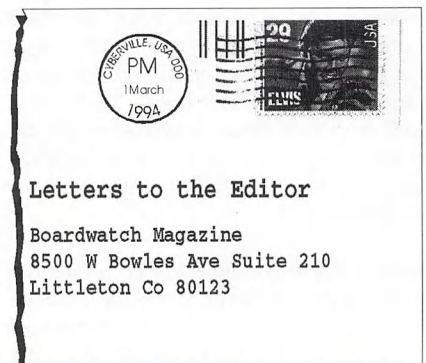
The bottom line is that you have things quite backwards. We've "allowed" NVN to address our readership, the most energetic, creative, and intelligent group of people forming the core of the entire on-line revolution - the early adopters and pioneers, many of which who are also the toolbuilders. NVN is privileged to advertise in Boardwatch, and that privilege can be revoked on the whim of the editor in a bad moment. It should probably be more democratic, or at least orderly, but it is not. And it is strongly reader driven - not advertiser driven. GEnie was

thrown out for for much less. And they DID appear in the poll you so curiously miscomprehend. My initial reaction to the childish e-mail ploy was to do the same to NVN. After Charlie showed me their ad response, we've decided they may have the seeds of sentence after all, have labeled them "Jack's Kids" for the present, and are considering a telethon. We'll see how they come along.

The possibility that something substantial could be going on online and me to miss it, is not just a possibility, at this point it is a stone dead guarantee. What NVN has to do is establish an identity and name recognition in the market - and there are few shortcuts available. Having me bless it does nothing. Incidentally, their response, a full page ad in this issue that DOES make an attempt at delineating precisely and specifically what NVN does offer is probably the best possible thing they could do. I understand from those here that do deal with advertisers directly, that NVN was stunned to learn we would actually run it. We probably do have something to learn about NVN. It appears they have a bit to learn about Boardwatch as well.

One of the first things I'd like to know, is why are all the sig-ops on NVN women? They run about 12% of the population across the BBS community, and certainly slightly higher on less technical services such as Prodigy - perhaps 30%. But it looks like MOST of the forum sig-ops on NVN are computerists of the female persuasion. Why?

Jack Rickard



Letters to the Editor

Boardwatch Magazine
8500 W Bowles Ave Suite 210
Littleton Co 80123

Modem Watch

BBS Discount Prices

Special Reduced Prices for BBS Operators



VENDOR	MODEL	LIST	SYSOP	BBS	VOICE	FAX
AT&T Paradyne	Dataport 14.4/Fax	\$329	\$180	813-532-5254	813-530-8276	813-530-2398
ATI Technologies	14400 ETC-E	\$219	\$149	905-764-9404	905-882-2600	905-882-2620
Cardinal Technologies	9600V42 V.32	\$349	\$219	717-293-3074	717-293-3000	717-293-3104
Cardinal Technologies	14400V42 V.32bis	\$449	\$249	717-293-3074	717-293-3000	717-293-3104
Computer Peripherals	Viva 9624e V.32	\$349	\$249	805-499-9646	805-499-5751	805-498-8306
Digicom Systems	ScoutPlus V.32/Fax	\$289	\$168	408-262-1412	408-262-1277	408-262-1390
Digicom Systems	MacScoutPlusV.32bis/Fax	\$299	\$178	408-262-1412	408-262-1277	408-262-1390
Digicom Systems	Connection 96+ V.32bis	\$199	\$139	408-262-1412	408-262-1277	408-262-1390
Digicom Systems	ScoutPlusTerbo V.32 Terbo/Fax	\$329	\$198	408-262-1412	408-262-1277	408-262-1390
Galaxy Networks	UFO V.32bis	\$999	\$299	No BBS	818-998-7851	818-998-1758
GVC Technologies	FM-9696/144V V.32bis	\$689	\$413	201-579-2380	201-579-3630	201-579-2702
GVC Technologies	SM-96V V.32	\$599	\$329	201-579-2380	201-579-3630	201-579-2702
Hayes Microcomputer	Optima 288 V.FC + Fax	\$579	\$288	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Hayes Microcomputer	Ultra 144 V.32bis	\$999	\$249	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Hayes Microcomputer	Optima 144+Fax	\$519	\$179	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Hayes Microcomputer	ISDN System Adapter	\$1199	\$450	404-446-6336	404-840-9200	404-449-0087
Image Communications	Twincomm 9600 V.32	\$299	\$279	No BBS	201-935-8880	201-935-6548
Intel Corporation	14.4EX V.32bis	\$549	\$269	503-645-6275	503-629-7000	503-228-9707
Intel Corporation	9600EX V.32	\$599	\$299	503-645-6275	503-629-7000	503-228-9707
Microcom	DeskPorte FAST	\$499	\$249	617-255-1125	617-551-1000	617-551-1988
Microcom	TravelPorte FAST	\$499	\$249	617-255-1125	617-551-1000	617-551-1988
Multi-Tech Systems	MT932BA V.32	\$869	\$435	612-785-9875	612-785-3500	612-785-9874
Multi-Tech Systems	MT1432BA V.32bis	\$899	\$450	612-785-9875	612-785-3500	612-785-9874
Practical Peripherals	PM14400FXSA V.32bis	\$549	\$250	805-496-4445	805-497-4774	805-374-7202
Practical Peripherals	PM14400FXMT V.32bis	\$299	\$155	805-496-4445	805-497-4774	805-374-7202
Supra Corporation	SupraFax V.32bis	\$399	\$149	503-967-2444	503-967-2400	503-967-2401
Telebit Corporation	T3000 V.32bis	\$949	\$399	408-745-3861	408-734-4333	408-734-3333
Telebit Corporation	WorldBlazer	\$1049	\$429	408-745-3861	408-734-4333	408-734-3333
Telebit Corporation	QBlazer V.32bis	\$549	\$299	408-745-3861	408-734-4333	408-734-3333
U.S. Robotics	Courier DS V.32 terbo Fax	\$1295	\$399	708-982-5092	708-982-5010	708-982-0823
U.S. Robotics	Courier V.32 terboFax	\$695	\$299	708-982-5092	708-982-5010	708-982-0823
Ven-Tel	EC96 V.32	\$699	\$439	408-922-0988	408-436-7400	408-436-7451
ZyXEL	U-1496 +V.32bis	\$749	\$499	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705
ZyXEL	U-1496E+V.32bis	\$499	\$349	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705
ZyXEL	U-1496E V.32bis	\$349	\$249	714-693-0762	714-693-0804	714-693-0705
Zoom Telephonics	VFX V.32bis/Fax Int	\$179	\$99	617-423-3733	617-423-1072	617-423-9231
Zoom Telephonics	VFX V.32bis/Fax	\$199	\$119	617-423-3733	617-423-1072	617-423-9231
Zoom Telephonics	VFX V.32bis/24K/Fax	\$269	\$119	617-423-3733	617-423-1072	617-423-9231
Zoom Telephonics	VFX V.32bis/28K/Fax	\$349	\$159	617-423-3733	617-423-1072	617-423-9231

The above quoted prices are for purchase by qualified Sysops only. Public purchases are retail prices, and are not available through Boardwatch Magazine.

RUMORS AND BITS

TAGLINES OF THE MONTH -

Please don't anthropomorphize computers...they don't like it.

The most dangerous woman in the world - Tonya Rodham Bobbitt...of Borg.

When I die, I want to go sleeping like my grandfather...Not screaming like the passengers in his car.

COREL SPECIFICATION COMING

- Corel Draw is arguably the most popular drawing program for PCs on the market with over 50% of the market for such programs. The program uses a unique proprietary .CDR file format to store drawings. The company has not been exactly open about it in the past. But according to Corel President Mike Copeland, they plan on updating the format, and publishing a specification to the public domain about the format to encourage third party software development for the standard.

MERGER MANIA SWEEPS SOFTWARE WORLD

- Adobe Systems announced March 15 it would purchase Aldus, developer of the popular Page-maker page layout program, for an estimated \$37 per share or about \$525 million in stock. Adobe will exchange 1.15 shares of its stock for each share of Aldus stock. Then, Novell Inc. announced March 23rd that it had purchased ALL of WordPerfect Corporation by exchanging 59 million Novell shares for all of WordPerfect stock - a deal initially valued at \$1.4 billion. But Novell's stock took a beating from the move to the tune of some \$5 in three days, lowering the effective price to the \$1.1 billion range. Despite record 1993 sales of some \$700 million, out of a market for Word Processing applications that just barely exceeds \$1 billion, WordPerfect had been going through a management shakeup and had laid off over 1000 employees. The deal was actually triggered by Lotus Development Corporation. Lotus initially offered some \$700 million in stock. Word Perfect had been trying to buy Quattro Pro from Borland International. After the WordPerfect acquisition, Novell announced they have purchased Quattro Pro from Borland International for \$145 million in cash.

BORLAND ON THE INTERNET -

Product information, sample code,

template files, utilities, and technical info at ftp.borland.com.

MORE PEOPLE HAVE COMPUTERS AT HOME..AND MORE OF THEM HAVE MODEMS

- According to the Software Publishers Association, some 27% of America's 95 million households now have personal computers. Nearly 33% of those households purchased those computers in 1993 or early 1994 and 24% of them purchased them in 1992. During 1993-1994, some 62% of all personal computers sold were equipped with a modem, compared to 39% in 1991. We would extrapolate from this some 5.3 million households were added in 1993-1994 that had both computers and modems for the first time out of a total home computer/modem pool of some 12.5 million. Put another way, 42% of the households in America with the capability to dial an online service, gained that capability within the last 15 months. That might explain the heat-up online right now.

MCI COMMUNICATIONS has announced they plan to offer direct dial long distance service to CUBA. WilTel International has signed a deal with Empresa de Telecomunicaciones de Cuba to provide the first fiber optic link between Cuba and the U.S.. The line will be called CUBUS1 and run between the southern tip of Florida and a point near Havana. Should be operational within a year. MCI estimates \$60 million in annual traffic with Cuba.

GATES ON THE HIGHWAY- - Microsoft head Bill Gates is reportedly seeking a publisher for a book on the information highway. He may be seeking for awhile. He's demanding a \$2.5 million advance. Meanwhile, Microsoft and cable TV giant TCI have announced joint testing of interactive TV - initially to homes of Microsoft and TCI employees in the Seattle area. Microsoft is reportedly developing a low cost video server. Test is expected to be expanded to residential customers in Seattle and Denver by 1995. But wait...it get's better.

The main thrust of the Microsoft Infoserve service, which doesn't exist yet, may just be online product support for software. A number of software companies seem to be doing pretty well with forums on major online services.

Sure to be a big element of any Microsoft online service.

KILLER APP FOR OS/2?

- It's called the IBM Personal Dictation System, and it may just be the hottest new product of 1994. IBM has been playing with voice recognition for over two decades. This product was introduced at the CEBIT show in Hanover Germany. It's a PC card, microphone, and software. It requires OS/2 2.1, 16 MB of RAM, and a 486. But it has a 32,000 word vocabulary, takes about 90 minutes to train, and is said to be virtually 100% accurate. AGAIN - the ever present buggaboo in this arena NO CONTINUOUS SPEECH. But with a distinct pause between each word - it's supposed to be very accurate. Dictation at about 70 wpm. It's \$995. If anyone ever gets this technology even partly right, it will be hot. IBM usually gets things partly right. I don't like machines that speak to me, but I don't mind giving them a few choice words what for.

VIDICAM CHIP - Marshall Electronics announced March 3rd the world's first video camera on a chip. The V-007 camera includes the chip in an enclosure 1.5 inches square with 4mm lens and produces a black and white picture. Intended for robotics, computer video, machine vision, and other applications at \$249 each.

MICROSOFT LOSES SUIT

- Microsoft lost a patent infringement suit brought by Stac Electronics of Carlsbad California, developer of the STACKER disk compression utility. Stac made the case that Microsoft's DOUBLESPEACE infringed their patent - apparently to the tune of about \$120 million. Microsoft is already sending out an updated DOS to OEMs - the only change seems to be elimination of DOUBLESPEACE.

MEDPHONE SUIT SETTLED

- The Medphone suit has been one of the more interesting legal suits in cyberspace. Peter DeNigris entered some messages on the Prodigy service denigrating the Medphone Corp. stock performance. Medphone's stock plunged in the days that followed and Medphone claimed it was a direct result of statements made by DeNigris on the Prodigy service that were untrue, and they filed a \$40 million suit. Apparently they have settled the case for some-

thing short of that. We're told the terms of the settlement were that DeNigris pay them \$1 cash money, and they in turn would pay him \$1 to settle the countersuits. That's \$2 total.

COMPUSERVE EARNINGS UP - TAX SERVICES NOT SO GOOD

H&R Block Inc. reported a 46 percent increase in its third-quarter net for the period ending January 31, 1994, with tax service income down but pretax earnings from its computer communications subsidiary rising by more than \$10 million. Block claims that it earned \$12.5 million, or 12 cents a share, compared to \$8.6 million, or about 8 cents a share, in the same period a year ago on tax services..

The pretax earnings at the CompuServe Inc. subsidiary increased 53.5 percent, to \$29.3 million from \$19.09 million. Revenues rose to \$113.7 million from \$81.2 million, a 40.1 percent increase. With 1.7 million members claimed by the service, this would indicate a revenue of \$66.88 per subscriber for the quarter, or an average \$22.29 per month from each of the 1.7 million members.

TBBS OPERATORS GAIN COMP.BBS.TBBS NEWSGROUP

We're seeing an increasing amount of traffic on USENET both from, and about, BBS software. In the ALT category, there have been a number of existing newsgroups popular with the BBS community including **ALT.BBS** and **ALT.BBS.INTERNET**. There are also product specific groups such as

ALT.BBS.WAFFL
ALT.BBS.PCBOARD
ALT.BBS.MAJORBBS
ALT.BBS.SEARCHLIGHT
and **ALT.BBS.WILDCAT**

ALT newsgroups were developed so that anyone could start a newsgroup, and was largely in response to the restrictive requirements necessary to start a COMP newsgroup. To add a COMP newsgroup, you must propose the newsgroup publicly in a newsgroup devoted to the discussion of new newsgroups. There is a public comment period, followed by a "voting" period. An automated vote counter is set up where votes can be sent by electronic mail. Finally, the vote is published and a five day period must pass to allow for alle-

gations of vote fraud. At least 2/3 of ALL votes must be in favor of the group, and you must have at least 100 more YES votes than NO votes. So establishing a COMP newsgroup typically takes two to three months of effort. Further, there is a band of COMP users who advocate very limited expansion of COMP, and rally round to vote against almost any new proposed group. For this reason, starting a new COMP is viewed as a difficult task.

TBBS operators apparently chose to go the long way around to gain the much wider distribution COMP enjoys over ALT. In February, TBBS operator Chris Blaise proposed the group **COMP.BBS.TBBS**. And in March it passed with a count of 309 YES votes and 31 NO votes - with heavy participation from Venezuela of all places. In mid-March, **COMP.BBS.TBBS** went live with a charter message from Chris Blaise. The group will be unmoderated, unaffiliated with eSoft, Inc., and devoted to discussions of TBBS and option modules. It is expected that other sysop groups will follow suit with various **COMP.BBS.XXXX** newsgroups in the future to gain the wider distribution.

GLOBAL INTERNET BACKBONE PROPOSED USING 840 SATELLITES

Microsoft President and founder Bill Gates, and Craig McCaw, CEO of McCaw Cellular Communications, have formed a new company titled Teledesic Corporation based in Kirkland Washington. The new company has filed documents on March 21 with the Federal Communications Commission outlining an impressive global network of some 840 low-earth orbit satellites to carry two-way data, voice, video, and other multimedia data to the farthestmost corners of the earth.

The Teledesic Network will draw in part on the work of NASA's commercial satellite communications program, and heavily on a Strategic Defense Initiative (Starwars) project titled Brilliant Pebbles. Brilliant Pebbles was envisioned as an orbiting global constellation of 1000 small satellites in communication with each other.

The proposed system offers a number of advantages. Unlike many communications satellites which introduce

round trip transmission delays to/from their very high geostationary orbits some 23,000 miles out, the cloud of 840 satellites will be in low earth orbit some 435 miles up with roundtrip delays approximately similar to existing fiber networks. The system will provide total planet coverage (about 95% of surface and 100% of population) and the resulting communications system will be relatively immune from natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods. The company intends to build it as a data backbone and sell access to various communications gateway groundstation operators rather than directly to consumers. The cloud of satellites will cost some \$9 billion to design, build and deploy. Each satellite will be relatively low cost, and "stackable" to allow multiple satellites from a single launch. The stowed satellite is an octagonal cylinder 4.2 meters in diameter and 1.3 meters high. It is designed to be carried from more than 20 different launch vehicles. On orbit, it unfolds to look a bit like an open flower with 8 petals with a 12X12 meter solar array on a boom.

The company is counting on the fact that certain economies of scale in manufacturing and testing can be gained in building 840 identical satellites. Gates and McCaw plan on putting up only a fraction of the \$9 billion, and attracting investors from the existing communications companies. They are rumored to have a "few million" in their own funds invested at this point. More conventional telephone companies can use such a network to extend service to remote or rural areas.

The satellites will communicate in the very high Ka band at 30/20 GHz - somewhat subject to rain interference at low elevation angles. They will be relatively high power (up to 4.7 watts) and users will be able to access them from small handheld devices to connect ultimately to the landline telephone system. The satellites are networked using fast packet switching asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) technology. A basic data channel will operate at 16kbps for data and a 2 kbps D channel for supervision and control. Packets are set at 512 bytes. Up to 2 million simultaneous full-duplex connections can be supported at that speed. Higher speeds will also be available quite commonly by combining channels to 2.048 Mbps (128 channels) and the system supports links for special applications of up to 1.24416 Gbps using a special

"Gigalink" terminal. Each satellite can support up to 16 of these Gigalink terminals to connect to existing telephone landline switches, for example.

The constellation is organized into 21 circular orbit planes staggered in altitude between 695 and 705 kilometers and around the equator at 9.5 degree intervals. Each plane contains a minimum of 40 satellites plus four orbital "spares" that can be maneuvered into position to repair the network in case of a failure. Each satellite is "linked" to eight others in the same and adjacent planes. The earth's surface is mapped to a fixed grid of approximately 20,000 "supercells" and each cell is approximately 160 km on a side. A satellite footprint encompasses a maximum of 64 supercells with a radius of 706 km. Low earth orbit satellites have a tendency to fall out of the sky and annual bird losses could run as high as 10%, which means they would have to replace 84 satellites annually to keep it in operation - a fairly expensive proposition. The satellites themselves are designed with a 10-year life span.

The system is seen as a competitor to Motorola's proposed Iridium system. Iridium started life as a proposed 77 satellite global grid primarily for cellular telephone - again using the low earth orbit cloud design. It was named Iridium because that element features some 77 orbiting electrons. The satellite design has dropped to 66, making the Iridium name something of a misnomer. Motorola has reportedly raised some \$800 million in investor funds for the project which will ultimately cost some \$3.4 billion. And Loral has ALSO announced a \$1.8 billion plan to build another low-earth orbit cloud of 48 satellites to do the same thing. The skies are filling with this swarm of comm satellites.

McCaw will serve as Chairman of the new firm. He is in the process of selling McCaw Cellular to AT&T for some \$12.6 billion - good work if you can get it. He's also rumored to be playing something of a matchmaker role between Microsoft and AT&T for as yet undefined projects. McCaw and Gates reportedly each own 30% of the firm, McCaw Cellular, soon to be AT&T, will own 28%, and Kinship Ventures II, a Los Angeles venture capital firm run by Edward Tuck, will own 10%. Gates is of course founder of Microsoft which had 1993 revenues of \$3.75 billion. Russell Daggatt has been

named president of Teledesic. Target date for operation is the year 2001. Teledesic, 5220 Carillon Pt., Kirkland, WA 98033; (206)803-1400 voice; (206)803-1404 fax.

Microsoft, meanwhile, has also joined forces with Mobile Telecommunication Technologies, the largest wireless paging service in the U.S., in a \$152 million venture to develop a nationwide wireless two-way electronic messaging through portable devices such as laptop computers, pagers, and pocket data communicators.

Between the slurry of satellite clouds and these sorts of cellular and pager alliances, you should be able to do e-mail from the outhouse here shortly.

U.S. ROBOTICS TO INTRODUCE NEW COURIER MODEM ARCHITECTURE

U.S. Robotics has announced a new architecture for their popular Courier line of high speed modems. The new architecture uses their own Digital Signal Processor (DSP) technology with FLASH-ROM and the ability to download software upgrades from their BBS in Skokie Illinois.

The new models, which while announced, won't be available for at least six weeks, will support virtually all current high speed modem technology including AT&T's V.32terbo (19,200 bps), Rockwell's V.Fast Class (28,800 bps), and U.S Robotics own proprietary HST (16,800 bps). Additionally, users will be able to download a free software upgrade by dialing their online service to upgrade to the ITU-T's V.34 standard at no charge. The V.34 draft standard was finalized February 14-15 in a meeting at Orlando Florida and is expected to be officially adopted in June.

In earlier models, U.S. Robotics had bet heavily on the 19,200 bps V.32terbo technology developed by AT&T in their chipsets. Hayes began shipments of their new Optima 288 series in November using Rockwell's V.Fast Class technology at some very attractive prices and the modem developer community has been in disarray ever since with announcements spewing forth daily and almost no one shipping anything at all.

Pricing for four new models has not been set yet, and the company expects to finalize it in April. They include the Courier V.Fast Class Fax, the Courier V.Fast Class Fax/PC, the Courier HST Dual Standard V.Fast Class Fax, and the Courier HST Dual Standard V.Fast Class Fax/PC. If nothing else, these modems will set a new standard in **LONG CONFUSING MODEL NAMES**.

According to U.S. Robotics executive vice president Jonathan Zakin, "Our architecture gives us a distinct advantage in this arena. It enables us to bring products to market quickly, and gives us the flexibility to implement numerous high-speed protocols in a single product." U.S. Robotics, (NASDAQ:USRX) 8100 North McCormick Blvd., Skokie, IL 60076; **800 DIAL USR**.

ZYXEL INTRODUCES RACKMOUNT MODEM SYSTEM TARGETED FOR SMALL BUSINESS AND THE BBS COMMUNITY

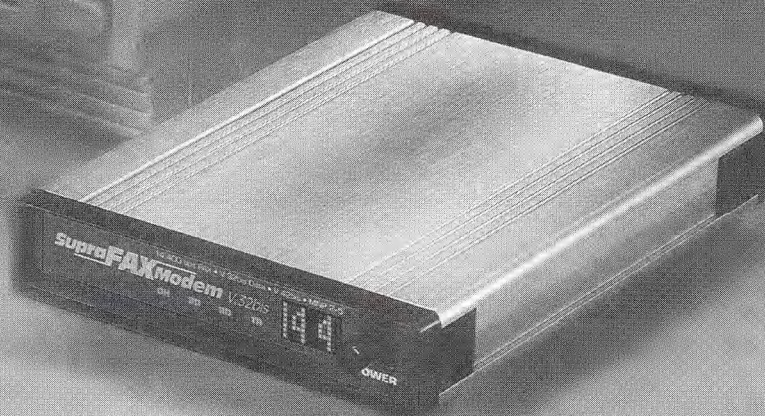
ZyXel has announced a new rackmount modem system termed the RS-1602E for the company's U-1496RE and U-1496RE Plus modem cards. The cards are functionally identical to the company's U-1496E and U-1496E Plus modems. The rackmount system was specifically designed for the multiline BBS marketplace.

The rackmount is 7 inches high by the standard 19-inch rackmount width and 12 inches deep. It weighs 27 pounds plus 1.5 pounds for each modem card and will hold up to 16 cards per rack unit. It features both modular RJ-11 and RJ-45 telephone connections and a Centronix interface and provides a 150 watt power supply for the modems. The rackmount carries a suggested retail price of \$799.

"The RS-1602E is an economical alternative to our powerful RS-1602 rack system," said Munira Brooks, Marketing Manager at ZyXEL. "We understand that SysOps want the very best data communications solutions for their BBSs. We are also aware that real-world budget constraints can result in a compromise between price and performance. With the RS-1602E and our special pricing, we have eliminated that compromise."

SYSOP SPECIAL
\$149.95!
 SupraFAXModem V.32bis

Inside Out



The Sysop Choice: SupraFAXModem V.32 bis

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Supra's faxmodems offer top-of-the line functionality like 14,400 bps fax and data, compression (V.42bis & MNP 2-5), support for Class 1 & 2 fax commands, and compatibility with Group 3 fax machines.

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Supra Corporation®

MODEL	RETAIL PRICE	SYSOP PRICE
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SupraFAXModem V.32bis internal with Caller ID	\$299.95	\$129.95

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Multiple command shells	Yes	No	No	No	No
Intelligent DigiBoard	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Int'l 4h device support	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Standard serial ports	Up to 10	No	Up to 4	Up to 2	Up to 2
Caller ID security	Yes	No	Extra	Extra	No
Nested security logic	Yes	No	No	No	No
Multichannel chat	Yes	Extra	Yes	Yes	Yes
Private user chat	Yes	No	Extra	Yes	Yes
Offline reader support	Yes	Yes	Extra	Yes	Extra
QWK networking	Yes	Yes	Extra	No	Yes
FidoNet import/export	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PostLink (RIME) support	Yes	Extra	Yes	Extra	No
Includes RIPscrip menus	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Novell/DOS LAN support	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Enhanced CD-ROM support	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Incoming FAX support	Yes	No	No	No	No
Chat between doors	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Bidirectional file transfers	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
DOS door support	11 types	2 types	2 types	No	No
FILE.ID.DIZ support	Yes	Extra	Yes	Yes	No
Offline NetMail	Yes	Yes	Extra	No	Yes
Offline/Remote file requests	Yes	No	No	No	No
Real-time configuration	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

Features and prices compiled from vendor supplied information 2/94, are subject to change without notification. Wildcat!IM, PCBoard/M, MajorBBS, TBBS, QWK, FidoNet, PostLink, RIME, RIPscrip, Novell, and DOS are trademarks or their respective companies. Third party utilities may be required for some message network technologies.

*for 8 nodes Wildcat!IM requires a 250 node license, PCBoard/M requires a 10 node license, TBBS requires a 16 node license.

If you haven't checked out Synchronet yet, crank up your modem and download a demo. There isn't a faster, more feature rich BBS available anywhere from anyone. Synchronet combines the robust interactive nature of a multiuser BBS with the speed, power and flexibility of a multinode system.

It was innovative out-of-the-box features such as intelligent variable timeslicing, ARSTM security, RIPscrip, enhanced CD-ROM, and easy to use fully integrated message network support that made Synchronet a multinode powerhouse. And now, with version 2.0, custom programmability, lightning fast high volume messaging, and much more makes Synchronet *the* sysop's choice for BBSing in the 90's.



Synchronet **BBS** **version 2**
Multinode Bulletin Board System Software

The modems themselves support 14,400 bps V.32bis connections along with ZyXEL's own 19,200 bps rates, but do not yet support the higher V.34 or V.Fast Class connections. The rackmount lacks the remote management capabilities of the RS-1602 and many competing rackmount systems - an effort to produce a basic rackmount device for the BBS community at a very attractive price - and eliminate the clutter of dozens of modems, power bricks, and assorted cableware. The company is offering a very attractive BBS operator discount on the system at \$495. Additionally, if you purchase the full bag of 16 modem cards, they will provide the rackmount at NO CHARGE. The sysop pricing on the U-1496RE modem cards is \$249, and the U-1496RE+ cards is \$349. Naturally, we'd love to see a V.34 card for this box. ZyXEL, 4920 E. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807; (714)693-0808 voice; (714)693-8811 fax; (714)693-0762 BBS.

PCBOARD VERSION 15.1 INCLUDES OS/2 SUPPORT

Clark Development Company, Inc. has released version 15.1 of their popular BBS software program - PCBoard.

The new version offers some fascinating new features, not the least of which is some utility under IBM's OS/2 operating system. The program is still not a native OS/2 application - it must run under a Virtual DOS window. But it does have some time-slice awareness of the operating system, and more importantly, it now communicates directly with the COMM drivers in OS/2, allowing port speeds of 57.6 kbps or 115.2 kbps while running multiple nodes on a single OS/2 machine.

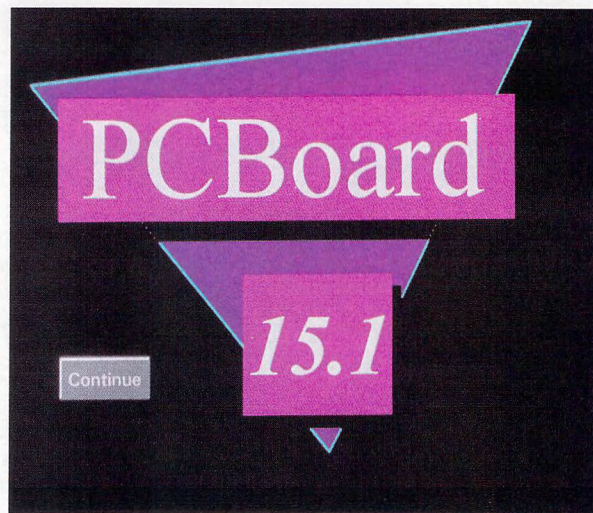
Last August, PCBoard introduced two relatively important features in their 15.0 release. The /M code version, and the PCBoard Programming Language. The /M code allowed theoretical operation of up to 16 lines on a single PC under DesqView using "smart" multiport serial cards. The product was based on Wiley's Computing's COMM-DRV programming library and supported both TSR and FOSSIL modes. We never bought into the 16 lines per machine under this model, and the PCBoard community didn't either apparently. But the feeling in Murray, Utah seems to be that to see it is to love it, and not enough of

their customer base has seen it. So in the new 15.1 release, they include the /M code version with the standard version at any node count.

PPL, on the other hand, has been extremely well received. PCBoard software at one time used the Henry Ford approach of "you can have any color you like - as long as it's black." The theory was that the command interface and menu "look" of all bulletin boards should be identical. In this way, callers don't have to learn the vagaries of how to operate each different BBS they dial into. Unfortunately, a great many real world applications don't fit the standard menu, and indeed, many professional and organizational applications find no advantage to looking like every other hobby BBS in the world. They need to look distinctively like the professional online service for THAT organization.

PPL is a BASIC-like programming language that you can write code for using any text editor. You then run the PCBoard Programming Language Compiler (PPLC) on this to create an executable .PPE file. This file can be keyed to the BBS as a script, a door program, or even to create an entirely new command. It runs as an extension to the BBS, with PCBoard itself acting as a kind of run-time library for the PPL extension. The result is a BBS design language affording impressive flexibility. With the 15.1 release, Clark Development has also upgraded this PPL significantly in a concurrent 2.0 release of this add-on. The new version includes some 140 new functions and now supports floating-point math functions. It also includes full random-access file support - allowing complete read/write access to virtually any file on the system, and the new version allows you to support the Remote Imaging Protocol (RIP) in your PPL programs.

The new 15.1 release includes some other features we found interesting. The message base got a facelift with carbon copies, return receipts, and an expanded message header to accommodate mail network links to the Internet and other BBS networks. PCBoard has also been quite progressive with international language support such that it is now installed in some 136

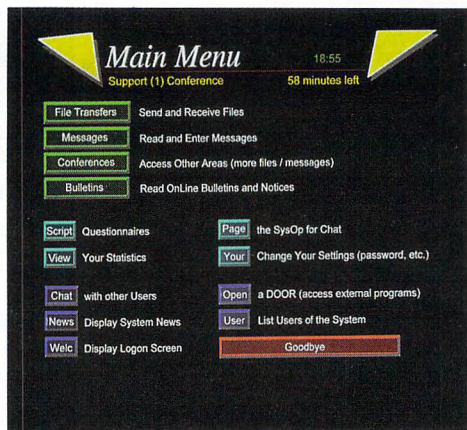


countries. With this release, they support what may be an important concept in the future - double-byte international display character sets. Systems in Asia have used a 16-bit or "double-byte" character set for some time to represent kanjii characters. And some quiet heat is forming behind the UNICODE concept for displaying thousands of different international characters. The new PCBoard support for this even includes character sets such as Arabic which read right to left. PCBoard also supports a variety of date and value formats - again striving for this international utility.

The new version also includes an improved chat function. PCBoard previously did have a chat function, but callers had to enter an entire line and then press ENTER to send any of it to whoever they were chatting to. The result was a very clumsy chat function. In 15.1, each key that is typed appears on the other callers screens in real-time as it is typed, and a 255 channel chat space is created. It's not yet chat nirvana, but it's significantly less clumsy.

A view of some of PCBoard's "limits" shows some impressive expansion. The limit on the number of nodes or telephone lines that can be supported as a function of PCBoard on a network is now 32,767 nodes. LAN's don't quite support that yet, but the theoretical ceiling in PCBoard has. To put this in perspective, the entire Prodigy network probably sports 40,000 nodes currently.

Up to 65,535 separate message areas or "conferences" can be defined and each conference can handle up to 32,767 messages. Actually across the system, up to 16,777,216 messages can be entered before a message renumber-



ing cycle must be run. Up to 32,767 "doors" (external programs) can be configured for each conference. Likewise, each conference can also support script questionnaires, bulletins, and file directory listings in quantities up to 32,767. File descriptions can now be up to 60 lines in length. And messages can be up to 400 lines (nominally 32,767 bytes).

The company has undergone some strategic changes. A new General Manager, Steve Klingler was brought onboard and has already undergone his first trial by fire. Fred Clark remains as the head of the company but is increasingly working from home and letting Klingler handle day-to-day affairs. PCBoard had historically offered a fairly simple \$60 per-year support fee providing access to Clark Development Company's SaltAir product support BBS, downloads of the latest bugfixes, etc. Klingler's first official act was to announce a new support fee structure based on node count ranging from \$90 per year for a 2 node system up to \$450 per year for a 1000 node system. This caused a firestorm of protest across all of the discussion networks among PCBoard operators and at this writing, the company is revising the policies on this support structure issue.

But the 15.1 release is impressive and the result is a powerful BBS operating system. The new OS/2 support, the design flexibility offered by the newly enhanced PPL language, strong international language capabilities, a much stronger message base feature set, and some very impressive "limits" on files, messages, and conferences pretty much make this a BBS powerhouse you may want to look at again. Clark Development Company, Inc., 3950 South 700 East, Suite 303, Murray, UT 84107; (800)356.1686 voice; (801)261-1686 International; (801)261-8987 fax; (801)261-8976 BBS.

ZIFF-DAVIS INTRODUCES ONLINE PUBLISHING PLATFORM

Ziff-Davis Publishing Company has arguably built the largest publishing group in the world specializing in personal computer and high technology magazines. In 1988 they introduced PCMagNet on the CompuServe network. Today, this has grown to become ZiffNet and the company announced they had reached some 200,000 users this past January. It is still available on CompuServe but has expanded with connections to PRODIGY and AppleLink.

The online networking arm of Ziff was titled Desktop Information, recently renamed Ziff-Davis Interactive. This spring, they begin rollout of an entirely new service - as yet untitled but nominally the Interchange Online Network. We reviewed some early demonstrations of this network during the first week of January and suspect this may be the interface breakthrough of 1994, and in many ways may shift the entire online paradigm in several important ways.

The service operates on a series of the new DEC Alpha computers at Ziff Interactive's headquarters in Cambridge Massachusetts. A key component of the service is a Windows-based terminal program necessary to access it. Local access will be available through packet networks such as Sprintnet, Tymnet and so forth. The company plans an Early Release Program this spring with several thousand users, and expects to actually open it for business by the end of 1994.

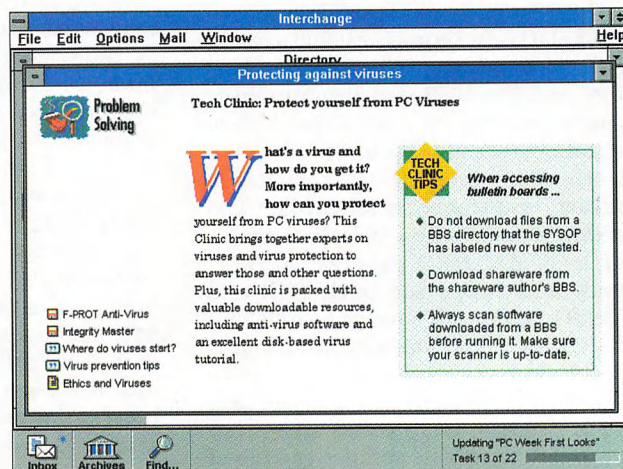
Interchange is not a more powerful version of the same thing all over again. Rather, it is an approach to online services from the publishing perspective. Despite the promises of futurists and visionaries, personal computers did not only not do away with paper, but the bulk of personal computer usage seems to be focused on better ways to produce MORE paper, faster, and with greater resolution. The advances in page layout, publishing, laser and

even color printing, have been impressive. But the leap from the printed page to online transmission not only hasn't followed as well, for all intents and purposes it hasn't even gotten started. Passing Microsoft Word or Adobe Postscript files is the rich end of this arena, and for most of us, ASCII text scrolling past on the screen in nearly random form is the true picture of information online circa 1994.

Ziff makes a powerful case that online services are really publications, and ultimately those who will do well online will be publishers. This might sound a bit self-serving, but with Rupert Murdoch picking up Delphi, and CompuServe and America Online scrambling to sign up print publications such as Time, U.S. News and World Report, the Detroit Free Press, the San Jose Mercury News, and the St. Louis Post Dispatch, it could also be very true.

Interchange is an online service designed by a magazine publisher. Surprisingly enough, they've developed a technology to make the screen look like a magazine. Not simply a magazine analogy, but with fonts, white space, graphical touches much as you would see on a page in PC Magazine. It's a publishing platform rich enough to start a new adventure online. More likely, it's a model that other publishers will look at and finally picture themselves really participating online in a meaningful way, without having to use a great deal of imagination. In fact, Ziff has already signed up InfoWorld, the Kiplinger letters, and just last week announced an agreement with the Washington Post.

The service does go quite beyond the display of pretty pages however. The entire contents of the service ap-



pear to be very heavily cross indexed, and the demo interface program implied that you could do a number of things simultaneously - download files, read and respond to messages, and browse articles.

By way of example, we saw a "review grid" devoted to high-end laptop computers. A series of models was listed down the left side of the display, and a series of Magazines was listed across the top of the matrix - including publications such as Computer Shopper, InfoWorld, PC Computing, PC Magazine, PC Week, MacWeek, Computer Gaming World, and Windows Sources. Box icons in the grid indicated reviews in specific magazines for specific models. Basically all the players down the left side, all the magazines that reviewed them across the top, and if you clicked on a single box, it took you directly to that review in that publication. This kind of top level view of a significant portion of the computer magazine publishing activity indexed against hardware products is just not done anywhere and it is awesome in its power to inform.

Another example of how this model is truly different is the INBOX. This isn't just where you find your e-mail anymore. If you wanted to designate the laptop matrix as something of interest to you, every time it changed, you would get an updated copy of it in your inbox automatically during your next logon. So you don't have to keep checking to see if it changed, it didn't until it tells you it did. This INBOX update gets even better. Let's say you LIKE Spencer Kat - for whatever reason. You can have his column dropped in your inbox each time it comes out. And maybe Dvorak from PC Magazine. And Somerson from PC Computing. And the BBS column from Computer Shopper. In fact, just go pick out your favorite parts from each publication, and you've just designed your own magazine. And it's waiting for you each time you call - already compiled.

Yeah, we're pretty impressed with this. It could change the model. But up to this point, we've found most people will play with information for awhile, but that's not really what they want to do online. The main sport is communicating with each other - mostly in public forums or discussion areas. The Interchange Online Network actually does provide discussion areas. They look a little bit too free-form - you can tie a discussion group to a par-

ticular magazine article for example. This places it in great context, but most callers seem to want to find their "spot" where they've found a home. We just can't tell from what we've seen if these "watering holes" will be strongly enough typed on Interchange to develop well.

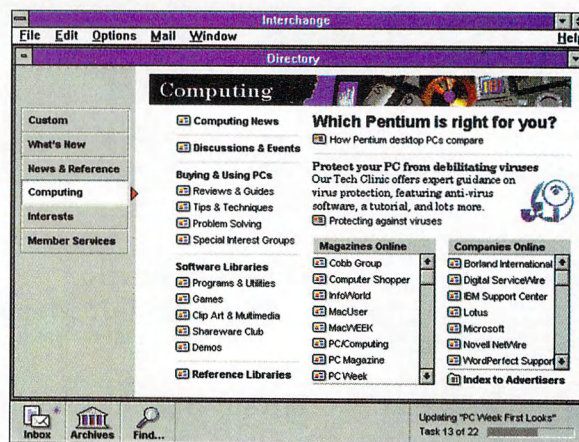
The service also sports software downloads, and in fact Preston Gralla is the head bean on their shareware acquisitions. No new ground here - ZiffNet already does a good job of this - largely owing to their acquisition of shareware disk vendor Public Brand Software a few years ago. Notable in the new service, or actually the Windows interface program - background file downloads. Start em up and then go browse something else. Not new, but always impressive.

And finally, electronic mail. The service will be connected to the Internet of course for global mail - by now a requirement to run a serious service. More of interest to Ziff is developing a means for Internauts to access the service via telnet, and still keep the graphic interface. That shouldn't actually be that difficult.

Potentially one of the most impressive things about this service is not the technology, which will certainly take the rest of the year and maybe a little bit of next to develop to the point of actually working, but rather a clarity of vision behind it. Ziff has identified five things they think callers look for in an online service:

1. Deep content in specific areas of intense interest.
2. Ease of learning and use with minimal instruction.
3. Active communities populated by people with similar interests.
4. Simple pricing and unquestionable value.
5. An engaging, enjoyable online experience.

This actually is a great model for ANY online service, it's specific enough to get a grip on (ok number five is a little wispy maybe), and broad enough to lead to success all by itself. In fact, if you could hit the middle three out of the above five a



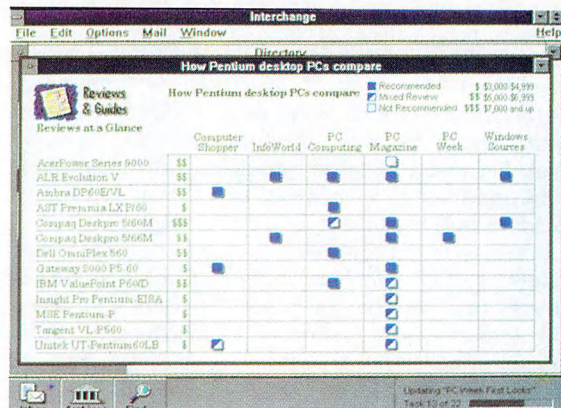
glancing blow, you've pretty much broken the bank.

They go on to identify five challenges faced by print publishers that they think translate exactly to online services as well:

1. Building and sustaining qualified circulation.
2. Building community.
3. Building loyalty.
4. Building habitual use.
5. Delivering qualified audience to advertisers.

Again, number five was indeed the place to quit, but even if your own model is not advertising supported, the first four are still right on the money.

The other thing we think may make this service possible is their willingness to forego the imagined lost hoardes of 4 MHz XT users with 300 bps modems. You will have to have a 386 or 486 machine with Windows, and a 9600 bps or faster modem to play ball on this system. Deepest and most respectful apologies to every ragpicker and flea market whacko on the planet who still thinks the move away from CP/M was a little hasty and may not stick. The VIC-20 WAS great - now let's move on.





The most recent apostle to join the Interchange camp is The Washington Post. They have actually formed an electronic publishing subsidiary called Digital Ink Co. to publish their newspaper online. Ziff is setting up a private-label online service for the Post on the Ziff equipment in Cambridge, but callers will be able to sign up for The Post without dealing with the rest of Interchange - although it will be available to them if they wish. In this sense, it will operate as a separate online service using the Interchange interface and technology. The Post online service will go beyond the traditional print newspaper, providing additional news and info in areas such as business, sports, education, entertainment, calendars, games, contests, and conversation groups.

"In designing this service, we wanted to create an electronic community in which all Washingtonians can obtain the latest news and information in interactive and innovative ways," said Donald K. Brazeal, editor and publisher of Digital Ink. "We chose Ziff-Davis' Interchange system because it allows us to create our own unique look and feel, because it lets us maintain a direct relationship with Washington Post readers and because it is a technological leap forward for online services. By applying our journalistic skills and values to this service, we hope to enrich the experience of living in the Washington area."

The service will use many of the same design features as the printed product - logos, headlines, graphics, photos. It will also provide electronic access to The Post's archives for quick retrieval of past articles, as well as connection to the Internet. And it will offer online advertising opportunities for The Post's existing advertiser base.

In addition to publishers, Ziff is also going after vendors for their "Companies Online" areas. These areas will be identified with specific vendors and can contain items such as software updates, drivers, patches, utilities, templates, marketing materials, press releases, newsletters, catalogs, technical white papers, and other support materials, as well as message forums for discussions and questions. In this way, software or hardware companies can have their own support forum on Interchange. Ziff is calling this the Interchange Industry Partners Program.

"Interactive publishing is an emerging strategy that blends technology and basic communications principles. It will transform the quality and economics of developing and retaining profitable customers, and help companies make more money," said Lee Phillips, vice president of industry marketing. "The Interchange Industry Partners Program is a great way for technology-based firms to take advantage of Ziff-Davis' expertise and to

leverage their marketing and support organizations."

Ziff intends to actively assist vendors in designing effective "Companies Online" areas and train companies to use the editing tools necessary to maintain the areas. Companies interested in participating in the Interchange Industry Partners Program can contact Chris Gwynn at (617)252-5567 or Pat O'Brien at (617)252-5176.

Pricing on the Interchange service has not been determined, though they allude to it being a bit "different" - probably a bit skewed toward a monthly membership arrangement. Ziff is opening the service for beta testing in what they call an Early Release Program with NO online charges during the ERP period. To apply for ERP status, call 800-595-8555. Publishers interested in participating can call Bruce Thurlby at (617)252-5427. And companies wishing to come onboard as advertisers can contact Leslie Laredo at (617)252-5283. Ziff Davis Interactive, 25 First Street, Cambridge, MA 02141; (617)252-5000 voice; (617)252-5551 fax.

ESoft ANNOUNCES ENHANCED CHAT FACILITIES FOR TBBS

The concept of "chat" is an oddity on bulletin boards, but an increasingly popular one. The basis for the "BBS" as we know it is a store and forward model for electronic mail, public discussions, and files that allows callers to



access these features at a time of THEIR convenience. You can interact with other people, but at a time of your choosing. This time machine is one of the keys to the popularity of online services.

But multiline bulletin boards also offer a "real-time" mode. In this model, callers dial into the system simultaneously and "talk" to each other by typing messages to the screen. All the callers in a group can read what is entered by any other caller as they are keyed into this shared workspace. This concept has come to be called "chat" and right now, it may just be the hottest area of growth and activity online.

The reasons for the growing popularity of chat systems are somewhat vague. Originally this function was used by so-called "adult" systems to allow people to titillate each other with sexually suggestive, or even explicit messages. This probably still provides some of the mystique, but in practice, we've not found it nearly as serious as some would suggest. It seems more of a fantasy space where callers can be who they want to be, and interact with others in a pseudo-intimate fashion, while still maintaining anonymity and distance. This odd combination has proven nearly hypnotic. In a society increasingly mobile, transitory, and nearly bereft of many of the classic social functions after the fashion of the Sunday Ice Cream Social, many in our modern society remain at home for fear of street violence, diseases, and attacks.

But we remain a herd animal. And all of us still yearn for human contact. With a chat system, you can stay home tonight, in the warm comfort of your own living room, but still converse with dozens or even hundreds of other live human beings scattered all over the country. With a bit of wit and imagination, you can soon be caught up in this social scene in a very addictive way.

The result has been an explosion in chat bulletin boards. And they are proving to be among the easiest, and most profitable systems to run. We are seeing bulletin boards started by relative neophytes jump from two lines to 20 lines in a period of a few MONTHS and some of the larger systems approach incomes of \$50,000 per month - operating from a single PC.

The selection of chat software for bulletin boards has been actually pretty narrow. The multiline BBS systems have always had an advantage in chat over "node" type systems. The three main packages available for serious chat work have historically been The Major BBS, a package titled DLX, and finally a system termed ORACOMM.

In our experience, DLX features the longest logon questionnaire online and is almost comically irritating for us to log in to for the first time. But those questionnaires provide a character sketch of each caller, usually available to all of them, and DLX systems have been enormously popular. The software is virtually abandoned by its author and is difficult to find. It also features a 32 line limit.

Oracomm is one of the oldest chat systems around. It also features a 32 line limit and has a circle of Oracomm BBS's very loyal to this package.

The acknowledged king of the hill in chat systems has been The Major BBS by Galacticomm. It has an active company behind it, supports line counts up to 255, and sports a variety of associated multiplayer interactive games. But Galacticomm has set its sights on the business BBS market, and seems to be actively downplaying the chat market as an insignificant part of its business. They may be running away from one of the hottest growth areas in BBS software.

eSoft's TBBS has been the odd player in chat. Technically, the 64 line multitasking system is more than capable to accomplish chat. But by author Phil Becker's own admission, he didn't really "get" the chat function and what made a good one from a bad one. You could chat on TBBS, but it lacked many of the features and creature comforts of the more popular chat systems.

On March 14th, eSoft began shipment of a new option module for TBBS called UltraChat. This option module took some 17 months to develop, and Bob Hartman of eSoft seemed to be the main programmer doing penance on this project. It may well change the chat world both dramatically and soon.

The entire BBS software philosophy at eSoft has held pretty true since the company released their first BBS product some 12 years ago. The Bread Board System was designed as a BBS

design platform, much as hardware engineers used a circuit board blank termed a "bread board" to test various designs for electronic circuits. The resulting package can be challenging for those who want to type INSTALL and have a BBS, but a boon to those who like to create a BBS, and tune and alter the interface on an ongoing basis. Similarly, UltraChat is a chat design program.

The program is based on a series of UCHAT.CTL files. These are edited with any text editor, and then "compiled" to become part of the BBS. There are easily over 200 different "commands" that can be defined. The "command" the user types in to accomplish some chat function is completely definable, the message they receive from the system for any particular advisory is completely definable, hundreds of insertion parameters or macros can be defined to display various information. It is linked to the TDBS (The Data Base System) option module to provide an enormous database connection to chat. This TDBS Application Program Interface allows development of enormously powerful survey and matchmaker database functions, and in fact a couple of sample programs with dBase source code are provided with the package.

By way of example, UltraChat comes with predefined chat control files for emulating the DLX package, the Oracomm package, the original TBBS chat package, and The Major BBS package as well. You can use any or ALL of these as part of your chat system. Not only that, but EACH caller can SELECT which interface they want to use for chat. You could easily have 20 callers online to whom the system looks and operates remarkably like a MAJOR BBS system - complete with all its "action words", 20 more callers on the same system who would swear it looks just like a DLX board, and 20 others who would argue that it looks like Oracomm to them. And they could all communicate despite using entirely different interfaces. Actually, which interface is used can not only be keyed to the caller, but to individual lines, modem speeds, time of day, date, access privileges, language selection and a couple of other items as well. So if you want to be tyrannical, on Wednesdays, EVERYBODY has to use the MAJOR BBS interface, but on Friday's, only the 1200 bps callers CAN use the MAJOR BBS interface and everyone else has to use DLX - un-

less it is after 3:00 PM when the world turns into one big ORACOMM. Gruesome - but effective.

The other element of UltraChat we found impressive was a link function. This is where you call another BBS that is running chat to link the two bulletin boards together so that THEIR chat callers and YOUR chat callers can chat with each other. UltraChat has three link levels. At the most basic level, it can dial any BBS that has chat, logon using a script into a chat area, simulate being a user, and cross-connect that single channel to all users on the UltraChat system. At a slightly more advanced level, it can link to a Major BBS Entertainment Edition BBS using the standard Major BBS link protocol and again link a channel between the two systems. There are now several entire networks of Major BBS systems playing chatlink and a TBBS system can now participate in these. When linking one UltraChat system to another, you can link any single channel, but additionally, users will be able to send private chat messages across the link from any user to any user, as well as do remote "Who's Online" commands to obtain the status of users on the linked system.

The company alludes to the fact that they have an "UltraLink" upgrade in the works already and it will be provided free of charge as a version 1.1 upgrade. This will ostensibly allow you to "network" up to 64,000 UltraChat systems and will actually allow the entire network to share exactly the same "chat space" - not just a single channel, but virtually all functions across the entire matrix of connected bulletin boards. Somebody somewhere is inevitably going to put 2 and 2 together here, the second duce of course being the Internet, and we could see some pretty huge chat systems grow out of it.

And eSoft seems to be actively pursuing the market. They've done a lot of beta testing with sysops of existing chat systems as part of the effort to determine what success in chat really looks like. And the results seem to indicate immediately increasing line counts and popularity. John Ellsworth of Lower Lights BBS in Salt Lake City, for example, immediately jumped from 32 lines to 42 and plans to go to 50 soon.

eSoft is offering a "competitive upgrade" package to existing DLX, Oracomm, and Major BBS operators consisting of TBBS, TDBS (the database program), SYSOM (a remote sysop utility) and UltraChat for \$1495 for the 16-line package, \$2495 for the 32 line package, and \$3295 for the 64 line bundle. Existing TBBS operators can get the UltraChat option module for \$195 and the company is running a special for the first 90-days, from March 15 through June 15 at \$90 for registered TBBS operators as a "thanks for waiting" move. eSoft, Inc., 15200 E. Girard Ave., Suite 3000, Aurora, CO 80014; (303)699-6565 voice; (303)699-8222 BBS; Internet: abryant@esoft.com

HAYES ANNOUNCES ACCURA 288 V.FC + FAX MODEL AT \$399

Hayes Microcomputer Products has announced availability of the ACCURA 288 V.FC + FAX model sporting connection speeds to 28,800 bps using Rockwells V.Fast Class technology. The ACCURA is Hayes' budget priced model and the estimated retail price of the unit is \$399 with Smartcom for Windows LE and Smartcom Fax for Windows software included at no extra charge. Accura models in the past have been discounted below Optima's by a pretty good margin. Hayes will make available an upgrade to V.34 when it is officially adopted by the ITU-T, but has not announced pricing for the upgrade.

"We are pleased to expand our ACCURA product line to include the ACCURA 288 V.FC+FAX modem," said Hayes President Dennis C. Hayes. "The increasing number of home and home office users, combined with the growing necessity to transfer large data files, prompted us to deliver a low-cost, high-speed product to meet these demands."

The company has also lowered the suggested list price of the Hayes ACCURA 14400 FAX 144 model to \$199.

An interesting bit of information came out of the ACCURA announcement. Although Hayes will offer an optional upgrade to the V.34 standard when finalized, they indicated that the new Rockwell chipset scheduled to implement V.34 will ALSO support the existing V.Fast Class operation. Hayes

continues to be vague about pricing for a V.34 upgrade, and it appears that in Rockwell silicon anyway, V.FC will continue past implementation of V.34. Hayes has been pumping thousands of V.FC modems onto the market at very attractive prices. The concept of Rockwell-based modems having an advantage in offering connections to this installed base as well as newer V.34 models is...interesting. Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc., PO Box 105203, Atlanta, GA 30348; (404)840-9200 voice; (404)441-1213 fax;

DELPHI AND FOX ONLINE

Delphi Internet Services Corporation, the born again Delphi post the Rupert Murdoch buyout last September, has played a strong hand with offering callers to the service a very full package of Internet services under some popular pricing plans for as little as \$1 per hour. And it appears they are going to strengthen their move toward 200,000 subscribers with the entertainment connections they gained in the Murdoch buyout.

First out of the gate is a new online forum for FX, Fox, Inc.'s new basic cable network. The forum will allow users to offer opinions about programming and interact with Fox management and generally influence the direction the network will take. FX is scheduled to launch June 1.

"This is the first time a network has reached out to the grassroots level giving people a voice in what they see on TV. We are putting their voices on air," noted Anne Sweeney, Chairman and CEO of FX. "This is just the start of a dialogue with our viewers - before we launch. We believe this online communication will inform viewers of our vision of the FX network and redefine the relationship viewers have traditionally had with television."

Matt Jacobson, a 20th Century Fox Television Vice President, has functionally moved to the Delphi service as Vice President of Entertainment Services. But he will remain physically on the Fox lot in Hollywood, with the mission of pursuing TV and film properties for Delphi to put online. There are even rumors of some leakage of online issues into TV scripts. One rumor has it that Homer of the popular animated show The Simpsons may find himself lost on the National Data SuperHighway so to speak.

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The biggest detractors of Delphi cite the plain ASCII interface. But the company is rumored to be about to rollout a graphical interface to more directly counter the Prodigy, America Online, and CompuServe interfaces that make it easier for new callers to navigate such services. Delphi Internet Services Corporation, 1030 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02138; (617)491-3342 voice (617)491-6642 fax.

DIRECTORY OF LANGUAGE PRODUCTS

The increasing connectivity internationally brings up the problem of languages and character sets more often. A number of software products do tackle some of the problems of international communications. But finding them can be a problem.

Ian Tresman has compiled an amazing resource titled Multilingual PC Directory. It provides a brief description of over 400 products with some language, font, or character set capability, as well as providing nearly 30 tables of different character sets used to communicate. French, German, and Spanish are naturals. But this guide covers exotics such as software to handle Mongolian fonts, Aramaic in fourth, sixth, eighth, and ninth-century fonts, Swahili, and even Egyptian Hieroglyphics. Good reference. Pricey at \$50 from Knowledge Computing, 9 Ashdown Drive, Borehamwood, Herts U.K. WD6 4LZ; 44 81 953 7722 voice; 44 81 905 1879 fax; Internet: 72240.3447@compuserve.com.

OKLAHOMA BBS OPERATOR FILES SUIT AGAINST OKLAHOMA CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Anthony Davis, operator of the Oklahoma Information Exchange BBS, has filed a \$1.2 million suit against the Oklahoma City Police Department, charging violations of the Electronic Communications Privacy Acts' prohibition of illegal or unauthorized seizure of electronic communications, prohibition against illegal interception of electronic communications, violations of the Privacy Protection Act, violations of the Fourth Amendment restrictions on search and seizure, and violations of the First Amendment. The suit was filed in the

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma in March.

Davis was the subject of a raid by Oklahoma City Police last summer and had his entire BBS seized, and his CD-ROM publishing business closed down based on four CD-ROM titles carried on his BBS and sold by his company that contained sexually explicit material. Curiously, none of the CD-ROMs that were the subject of the investigation were published by Davis, and were commonly off-the-shelf titles available nationally.

A significant part of the suit revolves around the seizure of the BBS, which was not named at all in the original search warrant. But it also involves violations of the Electronics Communications Privacy Act, and two of the BBS systems 2000 subscribers, Gayla Davis and John Burton, have joined the suit claiming their rights were violated as well when electronic mail messages were seized.

Davis has prepared a series of information files on various aspects of the case in an effort to keep the sysop community informed of activity relating to the seizure. You can retrieve these files by sending e-mail to FTPMail@OKINFO.MISC.UOKNOR.EDU and in the body of the message enter:

GET CHARGES.TXT (copy of the criminal charges)
GET MOTION.001 (copy of the motion to dismiss on forfeiture action)
GET MOTION.002 (copy of 2nd response on forfeiture action)
GET MOTION.003 (copy of motion to suppress on criminal action)
GET PRELIM.TXT (non-lawyer's opinion of Preliminary Hearing)
GET 092793.TXT (article on case from Daily Oklahoman News)
GET BWM31.TXT (Boardwatch article by Jack Rickard)
GET BWM48.TXT (Boardwatch article by Lance Rose)
GET FUND.TXT (announcement of legal defense fund)
GET SWBELL.TXT (Civil action against Southwestern Bell Telephone)
GET OCPD.001 (Civil action against Oklahoma City Police Department)
GET BUST.ZIP (zip file containing all above)
GET ECPA.ZIP (Electronic Communications Privacy Act)

Each GET must be received in a separate electronic mail message.

PC MAGAZINE AND ZIFF-DAVIS INTERACTIVE SPONSOR FIRST ANNUAL SHAREWARE AWARDS

PC Magazine and Ziff-Davis Interactive (ZDI), the online publishing division of Ziff-Davis Publishing Company, have announced their sponsorship of the first annual Ziff-Davis Interactive/PC Magazine Shareware Awards, honoring the best shareware written or significantly upgraded between January 1, 1993 and May 15, 1994.

The awards will be given at a ceremony at the Summer Shareware Seminar (SSS) at ONE BBSCON in Atlanta on August 19th. The SSS is a gathering of hundreds of shareware authors, who meet to learn more about the business of writing, distributing, and selling shareware. ONE BBSCON is hosted by ONE, Inc. and is the premier event exclusively serving the online community. It has grown considerably every year that it has been held, reflecting the dramatic growth of online activity. This is the first year the SSS will be held in conjunction with ONE BBSCON. The combined event will allow shareware authors and distributors to meet under one roof.

"We are very pleased to be honoring the best shareware authors and their programs, and that PC Magazine is recognizing shareware as a significant channel for software distribution," says David Shneider, vice president of Ziff-Davis Interactive. "As a leading provider of online services, ZDI has long played a role in delivering the highest quality shareware to our users. These awards are an extension of our commitment to the shareware industry."

"The shareware industry offers some of the best software available - at no risk to buyers," says Robin Raskin, editor of PC Magazine. "PC Magazine's sponsorship of the awards recognizes the depth, breadth and quality of shareware today, as well as the professionalism of the shareware industry."

The names of the award winners and their programs will appear in PC Magazine and will be posted in the PC Magazine libraries on ZiffNet.

Judges for the awards will include editors from PC Magazine, including Robin Raskin, editor, Bill Machrone, Ziff-Davis vice president for technology, and Preston Gralla, software editor

of the Interchange Online Service recently announced by ZDI. The judges panel will also draw on the expertise of PC Magazine's PC Tech editors and writers. These include Doug Boling, Dale Lewallen, Neil Rubenking, Ed Mendelson, Charles Petzold, Sheryl Canter and Jeff Prosis. Shareware will be judged based on originality, creativity, usefulness and elegance.

Formed in 1991, Ziff-Davis Interactive is the online publishing division of Ziff-Davis Publishing Company, the leading publisher of information about computers and computing. ZDI produces ZiffNet, which provides comprehensive information on buying, using, supporting and understanding personal computers. ZiffNet is the most successful special-interest online service in the world, with more than 200,000 subscribers. It is available through CompuServe, PRODIGY, AppleLink, and will be offered through eWorld. ZDI also distributes shareware via Public Brand Software, a disk vendor.

In January 1994, ZDI announced a new product with the working name of Interchange, that is both a new online information service for professionals and others with a serious interest in computing, and next-generation publishing platform that gives publishers new opportunities to develop and reach electronic markets electronically. The Windows version of Interchange will be commercially available in late 1994, but a large-scale early release program (ERP) will be in place in mid-1994. Interchange memberships will be free of charge during the ERP. Those interested in applying to the ERP may call 800-595-8555. Space may be limited.

PC Magazine is the circulation leader among computer magazines. It provides comprehensive, comparative PC product evaluations to a circulation of more than one million business readers. PC Magazine is published 22 times per year by Ziff-Davis Publishing Company.

MUSTANG SOFTWARE TO HOST WILDCAT MINI-CONVENTION AT ONE BBSCON.

Mustang Software has announced arrangements to host a Wildcat! work-shop type mini-convention within ONE BBSCON for Wildcat! sysops. The company has arranged for a dedicated Mustang Software session facili-

ty at ONE BBSCON where they'll be demonstrating their new version 4.0 of Wildcat! BBS, along with QmodemPro for Windows, QmodemPro for DOS, and their other communications products. They will also be hosting sessions by various third-party vendors of Wildcat! utilities and add-ons.

The concept of a Mustang Software seminar within ONE BBSCON hails back to a Wildcat! symposium the company held in Bakersfield in June of 1991. Some 135 Wildcat! sysops attended that event to learn in a hands-on environment how to connect Wildcat! to FidoNet, use the then new WcPro utilities, and learn the finer points of Wildcat! BBS system design. For more information, contact Mustang Software, Inc., PO Box 2264, Bakersfield, CA 93303; (805)873-2500 voice; (805)873-2599 fax; (805)873-2400 BBS.

NOVX SYSTEMS INTEGRA- TION TO PROVIDE INTER- NET CONNECTION FOR ONE BBSCON.

NovX Systems Integration, in Cooperation with SprintNet, will provide Internet Protocol connectivity to the Online Networking Exposition and BBS Convention (ONE BBSCON) held in Atlanta Georgia this August 17-21, 1994.

The show will feature a T1 connection to a local SprintNet point-of-presence with IP connectivity to vendor booths, session classrooms, and a bank of terminals available to attendees to dial bulletin boards directly, or use telnet or ftp to access services anywhere in the world via the Internet.

NovX Systems Integration is emerging as a leader in providing low-cost 56 KB and T1 connections to the Internet in over 300 cities nationwide. 56 KB connections start as low as \$345 monthly. NovX Systems Integration, 316 Occidental Avenue South, 2nd Floor, Seattle, WA 98104; (206)447-0800 voice; (206)447-9008 fax; Internet: info@novx.com.

PINNACLE MICRO DRIVE HOLDS 100 CD-ROMS

CD-ROM drives have altered the way bulletin boards

handle shareware files. In the past two years, the cost of duplicating CD-ROMS has fallen to as little as \$0.80 each, and with this, literally hundreds of shareware collections, some of them quite excellent, have become available in the \$20-\$100 range. Almost all of these shareware collections allow BBS operators to make the files available online. As a result, even fairly small bulletin boards can offer relatively huge file collections online by adding a few CD-ROM drives to their system. Each disk can hold over 600 MB of files. And the cost of CD-ROM drives has fallen as well commonly to \$200-\$400 depending on generally speed.

This has become so common another problem has come up. Some bulletin boards are now sporting 20, 30, or even 40 CD-ROM drives on their system. The management and connections, and simply the physical space for all those drives and associated power supplies becomes a problem.

Pinnacle Micro announced a device on January 5th that may be attractive to some of the larger systems who have gone gaga over CD-ROM. The Cascade CD-100 Jukebox provides a single device that holds 100 CD-ROM discs and features an automatic "changer" that can select any disk and load it in less than 6 seconds. This provides a total of 65 Gigabytes of online storage at less than 2 cents per MB.

The system features a double speed CD-ROM drive with 200 ms access speed that supports ISO 9660, HFS, Red-Book, Orange-Book, Yellow Book, CD-ROM XA, Photo CD, and CD-I standards. It uses the Pinnacle Virtual File System (PVFS) allowing access through volume or file aliases across a local area network. It's priced at \$9995. Pinnacle Micro, 19 Technology, Irvine, CA 92718; (800)553-7070 voice; (714)727-3300 International; (714)727-1913 fax.



AUSTRALIAN ATTORNEY GENERAL CALLS FOR REGULATION OF COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARDS

The Attorney-General and the Minister for Communications and Arts in Australia have established a joint task force to develop options for the regulation of computer bulletin boards. The task force placed an ad in *The Weekend Australian* March 19-20th inviting submissions from members of the public on options for the regulation of computer bulletin board systems. The task force is to consider alternatives for developing a regulatory system to control the use of otherwise banned material on bulletin boards. The ad implied interest in pornography, child pornography, and other sexually explicit material as a prime area of interest. Further information available from the Criminal Law Branch at 06 250 6459. Submissions should be sent to: Bulletin Boards Task Force, Criminal Law Branch, Attorney-General's Department, Robert Garran Offices, BARTON ACT 2600 or via the Internet address bbs.taskforce@ag.ausgovag.telememo.au.

THE BEGINNER'S CORNER - FAX SUPPORT FOR BULLETIN BOARDS

by Alan D. Bryant

I'm often asked by new and would-be sysops what it takes to support fax transmission on a bulletin board system. The appeal is obvious — while not everyone can access a BBS, virtually everyone in the business world has a fax machine, and it's not even unusual anymore to have one in your home. Fax support promises to extend the reach of a BBS to those who don't have direct access.

Fax support is standard with some BBS packages; an add-on option in others. Whether integrated or added-on, in most cases, the fax transmission software works in conjunction with faxmodems — a modem with fax protocol support. Faxes are created on the BBS by the fax software, and are then delivered via the faxmodem — usually a modem that's used on the BBS already. The faxes are sent immediately or may be delivered at a later time on a

scheduled basis, depending on the fax software.

Like virtually all BBS extensions, if it's not built-in, outbound fax support is added with a door (on multi-node BBS software such as Wildcat!) or a module (for integrated BBS software such as TBBS). On integrated systems, the faxmodem is sometimes located on a separate machine, with that machine connected to the BBS through a local area network (LAN). On other integrated systems, the outbound fax software blends with the BBS software itself, and functions on a single machine.

Faxmodems usually adhere to special interface methods established by the Electronic Industry Association (EIA). One or the other of these methods, called Class 1 and Class 2 faxmodem interfaces, are offered in most modems sold today. The fax software uses these standards to communicate fax information to the modem. Not all outbound fax software for BBSs supports these standards directly. Rather, faxes are created with the software but are sent by an additional piece of software designed for the purpose. (Outbound fax support options for BBSs which work this way must use a second machine on a LAN or a scheduled BBS shutdown to deliver the faxes.) Some outbound fax software for BBSs, however, does use these standards directly and thereby offers a more seamless interface between the BBS and the delivery of the faxes.

Outbound fax support for BBSs can be used one of two ways:

User generated faxes. This mode allows users to compose their own faxes, either by typing a message online or by uploading a text file prepared offline. The resulting text is sent as a fax to a fax machine designated by the user. Entrepreneurial and hobbyist BBS sysops will be most interested in this capability.

Fax libraries. This mode allows users to select prepared faxes from a list of available faxes, and have the selected faxes sent to their fax machine (or the fax machine of someone else). Business sysops will be most interested in this mode, as it allows technical help notes, product literature, service bulletins, etc., to be posted on the BBS and be made "fax deliverable."

Setting up outbound fax capability on your BBS is a fairly simple endeavor.

or. The process consists of the following components:

Outbound fax software. This is the software which actually interfaces with the caller through a door or integrated module on the BBS. It allows users to enter faxes online, and/or upload a text file for fax delivery, and/or select faxes from a library for delivery.

Fax delivery software. If the outbound fax software for the BBS doesn't communicate with the faxmodem(s) directly, you may need this software. It serves as an interim part between the outbound fax software on the BBS, and the faxmodem itself. It interfaces with the faxmodem, instructing it on what is to be sent and how.

Faxmodem. This is a regular modem, but one which also offers support for fax protocols. This modem may be on your BBS (and used normally for incoming calls), or with some outbound fax systems, it may be on a separate PC which is connected to the BBS through a LAN.

You may have caught on that so far, I've talked only about outbound fax support. You may be wondering about inbound fax support. Unfortunately, using today's technology, inbound fax support is not possible — or is at best very unrealistic. Be wary of any BBS product or add-on that purports to offer inbound fax support. Here's why:

There are several issues involved with inbound faxing. First, you must understand that faxes are received by a faxmodem as a graphic image. Although the graphic image may contain textual information, the information is stored graphically — just like a picture, drawing or photograph. As such, before it could be turned into text information for delivery to a BBS caller, it would have to be "read" and converted to text. This is accomplished by optical character recognition software. There are many software packages which can accomplish this, but none of them are 100% accurate in their conversion.

Then there are other issues: What if the fax was hand-written? What if there are drawings or pictures along with the text? How are those converted to text? The answer is simple — they're not. Optical character recognition software can't interpret these elements, and they will be discarded in the conversion process.

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Graphical user interfaces have been available on many different computer systems for years. But until now, you haven't been able to get a bulletin board system with a GUI unless you used a proprietary solution. Until now. RIPscrip (Remote Imaging Protocol script language) is a published specification developed by TeleGrafix supported by over twenty-five leading vendors on the PC, Macintosh, and Unix platforms. Any on-line system that can display a text menu can use RIPscrip. Chances are that your favorite BBS has RIPscrip support built in.

RIPdraw™

RIPdraw is the entry level RIPscrip graphics creation package. Designed for recreational system operators and the telecommunicator, RIPdraw is perfect for creation of stunning on-line graphics at a low price – \$49. • **Special - \$35** •

RIPaint™

RIPaint is a graphical drawing environment designed for creating menus and screens to supplement or replace a host's existing menus. Integrated tools for creation of clickable buttons, creation and use of bitmap icons, and optimization of files makes this a powerful tool for creating a graphical user interface for your system at an affordable price – \$200.

RIPscrip Graphics are supported by these bulletin board systems:

The Major BBS (Galacticomm)
NovaLink Professional (ResNova)
Osiris XLT (Int'l TeleCom)

PCBoard (Clark Development)
Remote Access (Wantree)
Searchlight (Searchlight Software)

Synchronet (Digital Dynamics)
TBBS/TDBS (eSoft)
Wildcat! (Mustang Software)



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Of course, the incoming fax could be posted on the BBS for the recipient as a graphic image file. But in order for this to occur you (or someone else in charge of the BBS) would have to view the fax image, determine who it was to, and post the file — all manually. BBS software that claims to offer inbound fax support usually implements it in this or a similar fashion.

Assuming that a given fax was converted 100% accurately to text (which is very unlikely), how could the text be forwarded to the BBS user it was intended for? If you or I actually read the file, it would probably say somewhere on it who it was for. Designing a software program to read the text and figure out what part of it says who it's for (if in fact that information is anywhere on the fax) then matching that against the list of users on your system is a virtually impossible task. If a BBS user named Robert Jones received a fax on your system, what would happen if it was addressed to Rob Jones? Or R. Jones, Bob Jones, Bob J., Rob, Bob, Robbie Jones, Mr. Jones, Bobby Jones, and so on? All these names may refer to the same person, but how would an automated software package (or even you) know which user on your BBS the fax goes to?

For all of these reasons, seamless inbound fax support is simply not technologically possible today (nor is it likely to be possible anytime in the near future). Some BBS products or add-ons advertise inbound fax support. Such solutions are either unreliable or involve a great deal of manual intervention on your part. Don't be misled by advertising claims; inbound fax support for your BBS simply does not exist in a 100% automatic, 100% reliable fashion.

In future articles, I'll be covering additional aspects of BBS technology for the new and potential BBS sysop.

[Editor's note: The following is excerpted from Alan's new book, Creating Successful Bulletin Board Systems, Copyright 1994 Alan D. Bryant, published by Addison-Wesley, ISBN 0-201-62668-3, available at bookstores for \$39.95.]

THE NEW VIRTUAL INFIDELITY; CYBERSEX PART II

by Phyllis Phlegar



People are going on-line, and into live chat areas and are having what's come to be known as "cyber" or "computer sex." Good grief! Who are these people and why do they do this? Lots of these folks are married, so, could what they are doing be considered adultery? Well, I wanted to know, and with the help and understanding of my husband, I went undercover and had "cyber affairs" with two fellows who I will call Clark and Randy. My cyber relationship with Clark was a casual "on again, off again" kind of thing, but with Randy there was a distinct, and almost serious relationship. Eventually, I told both of them that they were the subjects of a study I was doing on married men and computer sex. Randy was very upset and felt that I'd used him; and he wondered why I hadn't simply asked him whether he thought it was adultery or not? So I did.

Randy: Traditionally, of course, infidelity is having sexual relations with someone other than your spouse. But, the lines become more blurred here, don't they? For me, in order for cybersex to work, there must be more. There must be some connection, some feeling there. In fact, for me it's what makes cybersex different, and more exciting and enjoyable than "girlie magazines."

Phyllis: Where does that "enjoyment" and excitement go beyond what

might be considered "okay" for a married man?

Randy: If I had to try to define it, I guess it would be several things. For one, it can be defined in terms of desire: does it make one's desire for one's spouse different? Does one desire one's spouse less? For another thing, it can be defined in terms of time: is one taking time to be online in cybersexual relations that could be used being with one's spouse instead. If one is stealing time, then in a sense it IS cheating, isn't it?

Phyllis: So, what you do with your cyberlovers isn't adultery?

Randy: Right. To me it isn't adultery. Period.

Phyllis: When you make "dates" to be with specific women over and over, it's not like reading a girlie magazine. There is a personalized interaction going on in your relationships that you wouldn't have with a magazine.

Randy: You're right: this isn't "just an electronic magazine." The point is, to me, that this FEELS better than what one can get from a magazine or a book. And it's the personal connection that makes it different. It's knowing that there IS someone on the other side of the monitor. I've also found things with some cyberlovers that I doubt that I could ever have with my wife. My wife and I have not had an active sex life for more than a year. "Active" is relative, of course, but once a month is NOT active under any definition! Like many middle-aged men, I began to wonder seriously whether I was still attractive, whether I could still please a woman. When I began to realize that, through cybersex at least, I could please a woman, and I realized how exciting it was to me to do that, I began to want more, and progressed to talking on the telephone with a few women. Making love over the phone. Eventually I met two of the women I had talked with on the computer and on the phone. THAT was adultery.

Phyllis: What makes the difference for you, when you decide which of your cyberlovers you want to meet in person?

Randy: I don't know if I can say, honestly. But opportunity has something to do with it, obviously.

Phyllis: What about guilt?

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File Transfer Protocols	10	13	16	8	5	8
Terminal Emulations	34	32	22	8	6	16
Background Mode	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Built in Text Editor	✓		✓	✓	✓	
GIF viewer	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Sound Card Support	✓					
RIPscrip Graphics	✓					
FAX Send	✓				✓	✓
FAX Receive	✓				✓	✓
Script Compiler	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Script Debugger	✓					
Quicklearn Scripts	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Queue Dialing	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Group Dialing	✓					
Iconized Phone Book	✓					✓
Auto-Doorway Mode	✓					
Drag/Drop File Xfers	✓		✓	✓		✓
Macro Keys	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Customizable Host Mode	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Comm Ports Supported	1-9	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4
Interrupt 14 Support	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Max DTE	230400	115200	115200	115200	115200	115200
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QmodemPro for Windows is the **only** Windows communication program that was designed from the ground up to meet the needs of the active BBS caller.

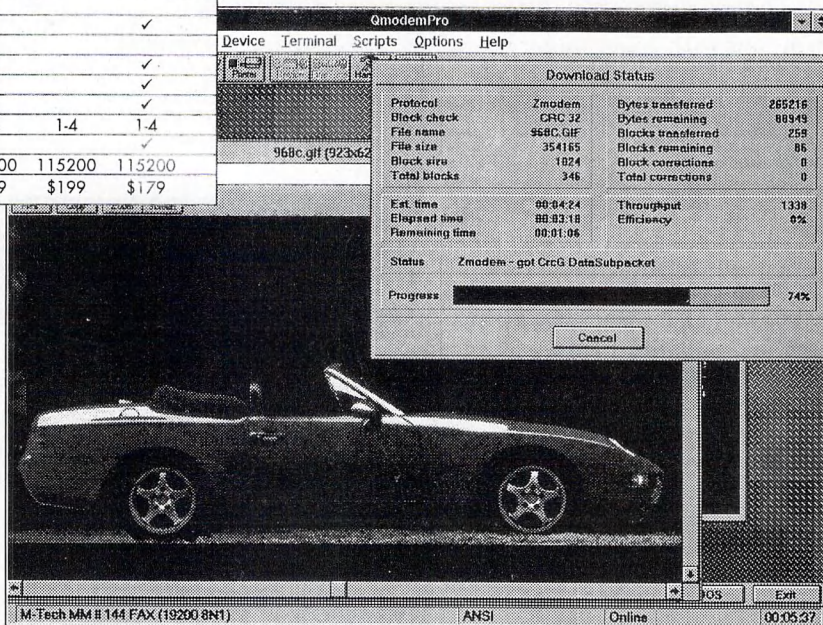
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Randy: The thing I felt most guilty about was that I didn't feel more guilty! None of these women I met in person lives anywhere near me, and the logistics are very difficult.

Phyllis: How many lovers do you have on-line?

Randy: I occasionally have cybersex with five different women currently.

Phyllis: What do you think your wife would say if she found out about the lovers on-line? Would she feel betrayed?

Randy: I don't know what my wife would say, exactly but I don't think I've "betrayed" her in any sense. I don't think cybersex is adultery or betrayal. I didn't say she'd like it. I don't like not getting laid either.

When I told Clark that I had been carrying on with him "undercover," and as two separate personalities, he thought it was funny, and was impressed, actually! And he agreed to also share his thoughts on cybersex, and its relationship to adultery.

Phyllis: As a programmer, and a very computer oriented person, would you say that your "adult" escapades, were, for you, not much different than a man's magazine?

Clark: Not much different. However, having that live interaction was much more real and arousing. After all, you had not only your own imagination to run wild, but there was someone else to bounce those thoughts and ideas off of.

Phyllis: Some folks actually have their "solo" sex "together" while on-line; do you engage in this behavior known as "cybersex" or "computer-sex?"

Clark: Yes, I 'actively' participate. I 'interact' as I go along in the conversation.

Phyllis: Why do you go on line for sexual stimulation in the first place?

Clark: It's an outlet for stuff that I didn't and don't have the nerve to do in person. I would ask my wife to participate in some of my fantasies, but she's very conservative. Also, on line, rejection isn't a big deal, you know there is someone else waiting and it's not really personal, not to me anyway.

Phyllis: When is sex on-line too much, in your opinion?

Clark: When what should be casual becomes an addiction, then you have to have more of it; then you want to have phone sex and then, meet and have sex for real. And then, other things begin to slide. For me, sexual stimulation on line is fun every once in a while, but hardly an integral part of my life.

Phyllis: What do you think would happen if your wife found out?

Clark: Wow, that's a tough one to answer. I would get a lecture and she would tell me how much it hurt her. The interaction would hurt her feelings, she would think that I found it more attractive that she is. But that's not true, I find her very attractive, and we have a great sex life. But sometimes, even after making love all night, I'll go on-line for more. Sometimes I can't seem to get enough.

Phyllis: There is talk that folks who make a life for themselves on line don't have much of a real life. Would you say that you and your wife are what's considered attractive people who interact well in the real world?

Clark: Yes, definitely.

Phyllis: Have you ever gotten attached to anyone on-line?

Clark: Just you. <Laughter.>

Phyllis: Would you call your on-line activities adulterous?

Clark: Why no, because I am not in the category where I would be addicted to it and need it as a narcotic. However, it is very, very borderline and anyone who denies that fact is just flat out lying.

And the debate rages on.

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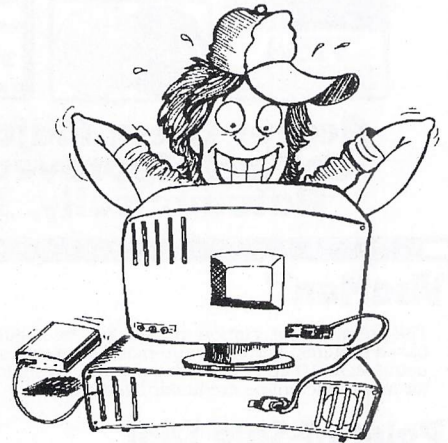
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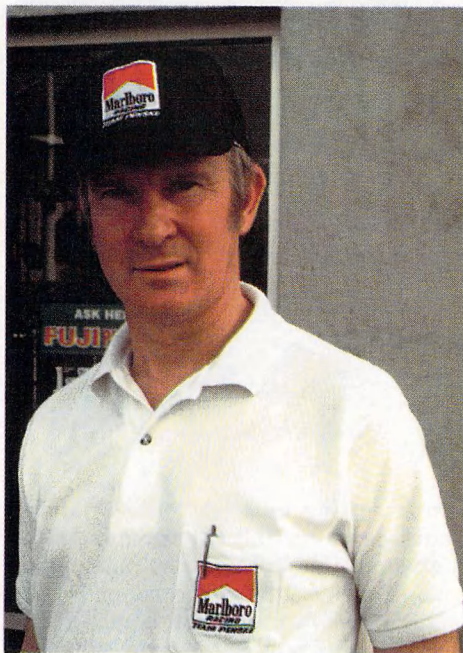
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COMFORT IN THE COMPUTER ROOM

by Jim Thompson
Western News Service



Most of us see nothing wrong with spending thousands of dollars every year on computer supplies and equipment. Yet, few of us see the value of spending more than the minimum amount on a decent office chair, desk or computer keyboard.

"The old desk may have a few dings but it is still serviceable," you may say. "The old chair may be a bit faded and have a few rips, but that just adds character. Why should I spend good money on such things, I'm not a decorator. Besides, the money for a good chair will buy a new disk drive or software program," is the usual argument.

If you're like me, you spend as much as 14 hours a day working on the computer. We are not alone. Recent studies tell us that Americans spend more time at work than any other single activity. Creating a good working environment is not just important — it's vital to your health and well-being.

Research indicates that an estimated 4.4 million people suffer from illness, part of which can be attributed to the use of computers in the workplace. I am not talking about the possibility of your new 486 falling on your toe. I'm talking about serious injury from the use of computers.

Repetitive stress injuries (RSI) are the most common type of injuries relat-

ed to computer use. RSI is caused when a worker uses the same motion over and over for long periods. More than half of all workplace illness in the U.S. are attributed to repetitive stress injuries. It is getting so common that some lawyers are calling it "the next asbestos crisis."

If you think that RSI could never happen to you — think again. Anyone who spends six hours a day or more at a computer is at risk. RSI can require surgery to correct. The recovery period can be up to one year and it can be expensive. It is estimated that RSI costs \$40 billion dollars in lost wages and medical expenses every year in the U.S. alone.

One common injury resulting from RSI is Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. Surgery for this injury costs an average of \$4,000. On average, this problem costs an additional \$25,000 in medical expenses and lost wages.

Emil Pascarelli, MD, and Deborah Quilter have actually written a book on this topic, titled **REPETITIVE STRAIN INJURY - A COMPUTER USER'S GUIDE** published by John Wiley & Sons, outlining a 7-point program for treating and preventing RSI, including Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.

THE ANSWER IS TO REDESIGN THE WORKPLACE

Designing furniture and equipment to suit the worker is the answer to the potential problems of stress related injuries. Ever since the invention of the pencil, people have suffered from some form of RSI. But it has only been in recent years that scientists and employers have tried to do something to correct the problem. The science of ergonomics has emerged to find a way of combating RSI and other work-related activities.

You don't have to become an ergonomic engineer to gain the benefits of the research in this area. Some extremely good products are available at very reasonable prices. Here are a few that I can recommend.

REPETITIVE STRAIN INJURY

A Computer User's Guide



EMIL PASCARELLI, MD • DEBORAH QUILTER

A 7-point program for treating and preventing RSI, including Carpal Tunnel Syndrome

Learning proper keyboard techniques

Managing pain

Setting up the work station

Choosing a physician

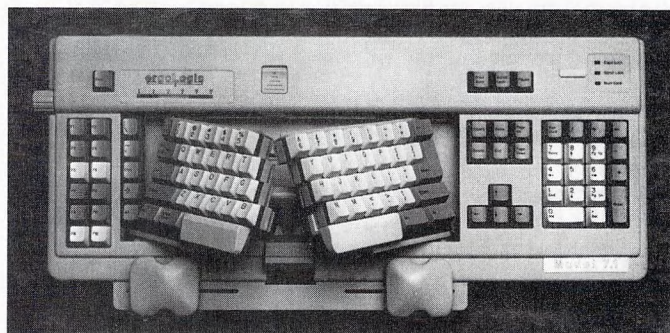
Protecting your vision

THE KEYBOARD IS THE KEY

Since its invention some 125 years ago, the keyboard has undergone few changes. It is surprising, and a little frightening, to think that we are using essentially the same keyboard as the one used by Mark Twain when he became the first person to write a novel completely on a typewriter. They keyboard remains the most primitive piece of equipment in present computer systems.

It is not clear exactly why or how the present keyboard layout, known as the QWERTY layout, became the standard. Some say it was developed in the 1860s to slow down typists so the keys wouldn't jam on the old typewriters. Others claim that the layout was based on the name of the man who was supposed to have designed it — Quinton Qwerty. Whatever the reason, the result is a keyboard that should have been retired long ago.

A professional keyboard operator performs some 12,000 keystrokes an hour. At the end of a typical day (taking into account lunch and coffee breaks) the typist would have tapped more than 70,000 keys — that's the equivalent of traveling 8,200 feet or the length of 27 football fields!



Dr. Lance Rucker, director of the Human Performance Laboratory at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and president of Erogolic Enterprises, Inc. recognized that a new keyboard design was needed during work he was doing in the 1980s. After several years of study, he designed the ergoLogic keyboard.

At first glance it appears to be like a standard 101 PC keyboard. But look closer. The key portion (QWERTY section) on the ergoLogic splits down the middle and with the turn of a knob, pops up and rotates both vertically and horizontally in "symmetrical arcs." This allows the keyboard to adjust to any position and allows the typists hands to assume a natural, relaxed position.

The ability to change the shape of the keyboard allows your wrists, hands and arms to work in a more natural and comfortable position.

At the time of this writing, the keyboard was not yet commercially available, but it should be available by the time you read this article.

Since the keyboard was not yet available, I was not able to personally give it a test run. I did see and use a pre-production model briefly at Comdex. It seemed very good, but, again, I did not have enough time with it to form an accurate assessment. Because of its radically different approach to the whole concept of a keyboard, It seems as though it would take some time to get used to using. It also appears that for some people or in some environments, it would be quite awkward to use. This, of course is a very uneducated guess. The only way to know if the ergoLogic keyboard is truly useful would be to use it for a while.

One of the companies specializing in the design and manufacture of ergonomically correct products is Forminco in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. They offer a range of products for the computer user. Among them office chairs, desks and even a unit specially designed for your mouse.

A DESK FOR ALL REASONS

Forminco also offers a number of desks that will help reduce stress and add comfort to your work environment. Besides what could be considered a standard desks (the PC-1A Pow-



er Center and the PW-2XL Delux Computer Work Station), they also market two smaller "personal" workstations (PW-1S for tabletop CPUs and the PW-1L for Tower CPUs) and a corner unit (CU-1).

All the desks feature a keyboard tray that fits just above the knees to allow for the maximum neutral position and a leather covered palm rest which is also adjustable. Doctors doing research in work related injuries note that it is a "palm" rest and not a "wrist" rest that you want. They point out that the wrist is one of the most fragile parts of the body while the palms are very strong. The idea is to put the stress on the palms allowing for the wrists to remain free and flexible.

The desktops are non-glare and can even be tilted slightly. "The angle of the desktop can be changed by one or two degrees. That may not seem like very much, but if you have a lighting fixture above you that cannot be adjusted, this one or two degrees of adjustment may be just enough to relieve a lot of eye strain," says Mogelonsky.

Running along the top, and about six-inches above the desk from one end to the other, is what Forminco calls a "command bar." This is actually a diamond shaped, 14-gauge piece of steel which can hold one or several trays. The trays hold such items as a telephone, rolodex, light or even a computer monitor or printer.

There is also a "wire management system" built-in which keeps cables

from getting tangled. This certainly cuts down on the clutter normally found on the desktop. The pneumatic monitor arm lets you raise or lower your screen to a comfortable angle. The desks also have a built-in surge suppressor with six outlets and a hidden spool that will take up excess wire.

I was not able to personally use any of the Forminco desks. They seem both functional and sturdy. However, you should remember that they are designed for the user and not the decorator. As such, they may not harmonize with every decor. If your office has antique furniture with lots of wood, these high tech metal structures will probably look a bit out of place.

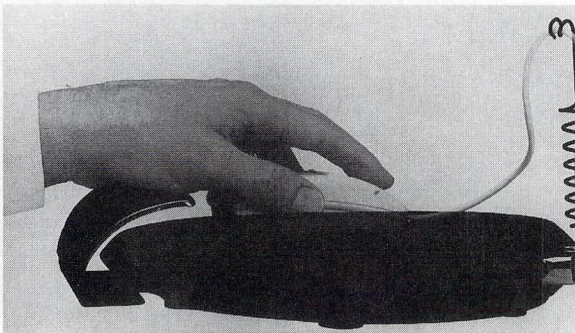
The other problem is that, except for the corner unit, none of the desks contain any drawers or storage space. I find this to be a distinct disadvantage. I don't know about you, but I have a lot of "stuff" and I am always getting more "stuff." Personally, I can never have enough drawer space or areas where I can stash-away papers. If nothing else, we all need a convenient place to dump a load of papers at the last minute before an important client arrives.

Forminco does not offer an add-on draw unit, so you are on your own when it comes to storage space.

GIVE YOUR MOUSE A NEW PLAYGROUND

Forminco also markets a "Mouse Arena" for that special friend. This specially designed device features a platform covered with what the company calls "Tyron" for proper traction with a leather-covered, adjustable palm rest attached. A piece of spring steel sticks up to keep the mouse cord free from tangles and hold it out of the way.

The Mouse Arena does command more room on your desktop than a conventional pad, but that is a small price to pay for this useful tool. Throw-away that old pad — give your mouse a home and your wrist a rest with the Mouse Arena.



THE ULTIMATE COMPUTER CHAIR

As far as I am concerned, the perfect office environment starts with the chair. This is where we spend the majority of the time in the office.

Forminco makes what I consider the best office chair anywhere on earth. I only needed to try it once to know that



this was for me. It is so comfortable that you may be tempted to use it in the living room as a lounge chair. Just be advised that your wife or decorator may have other ideas.

The Forminco chair is built around an all-steel frame. Its fully padded seat and back cushions are covered in rich leather and adjusts to suit almost anyone. The back adjusts to any angle to ensure proper posture and lumbar support — just the thing you need to relieve back strain. The pneumatic seat which adjusts to any height and a tilt-lock adjustment, which locks the chair in an upright or spring-back position, helps relieve lower back strain. A steel ring around the bottom provides a place to rest your feet for additional tension relief.

A special lumbar support makes you feel more like you are sitting in a expensive sports car than an office chair. In fact, Larry Mogelonsky, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Forminco, says it was exactly that safe, secure feeling that they were trying to reproduce when designing the Forminco chair.

"There is nothing metal in the back of our chairs. Only the outer edges are metal. A series of webs, inside and behind the upholstery and the leather, hold you secure. Velcro strips allow the lower cushion to be moved to any position and a piece of lexan in the lower cushion locks in to form a bridge right where you need it most. This makes the chair comfortable for you and not for the 'average' person most chairs are calculated for," says Mogelonsky.

One thing this chair does not have is arms. The big, high-backed leather chair with arms may make you feel like Captain Kirk from Star Trek, but when it comes to working at a computer, it's the worst thing you can use.

"The main reason most executive office chairs are bad, is the arms. The arms of the chair get in the way. You need to be able to flex, to pivot on your shoulders and move your elbows to get full use of the keyboard. You can't do that with a chair with arms," notes Mogelonsky.

Forminco has just introduced a new model of their original armless chair

(model EAC-1) which features retractable arms. The model EAC-R has padded leather arms which raise or lower so they are flush with the seat.

The one drawback is that there are no choices in the color of the chair. Like Ford's Model-T, "it comes in any color — so long as it is black." Black is not bad, but it does not always fit in with every decor. We can only hope that the color range will improve as the sales increase.

I consider my purchase of the Forminco chair to be the best investment — and it is an investment — I have made in a long time. You can take away my desk and even my computer, but don't you dare touch my Forminco chair!

[Jim Thompson is Managing Editor of Western News Service in Los Angeles, California. He also manages the Marlboro Racing News BBS. CompuServe: 72777,2677, MCI Mail: 321-4127]

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PW-2XL Desk: \$ 199
Mouse Arena: \$ 15

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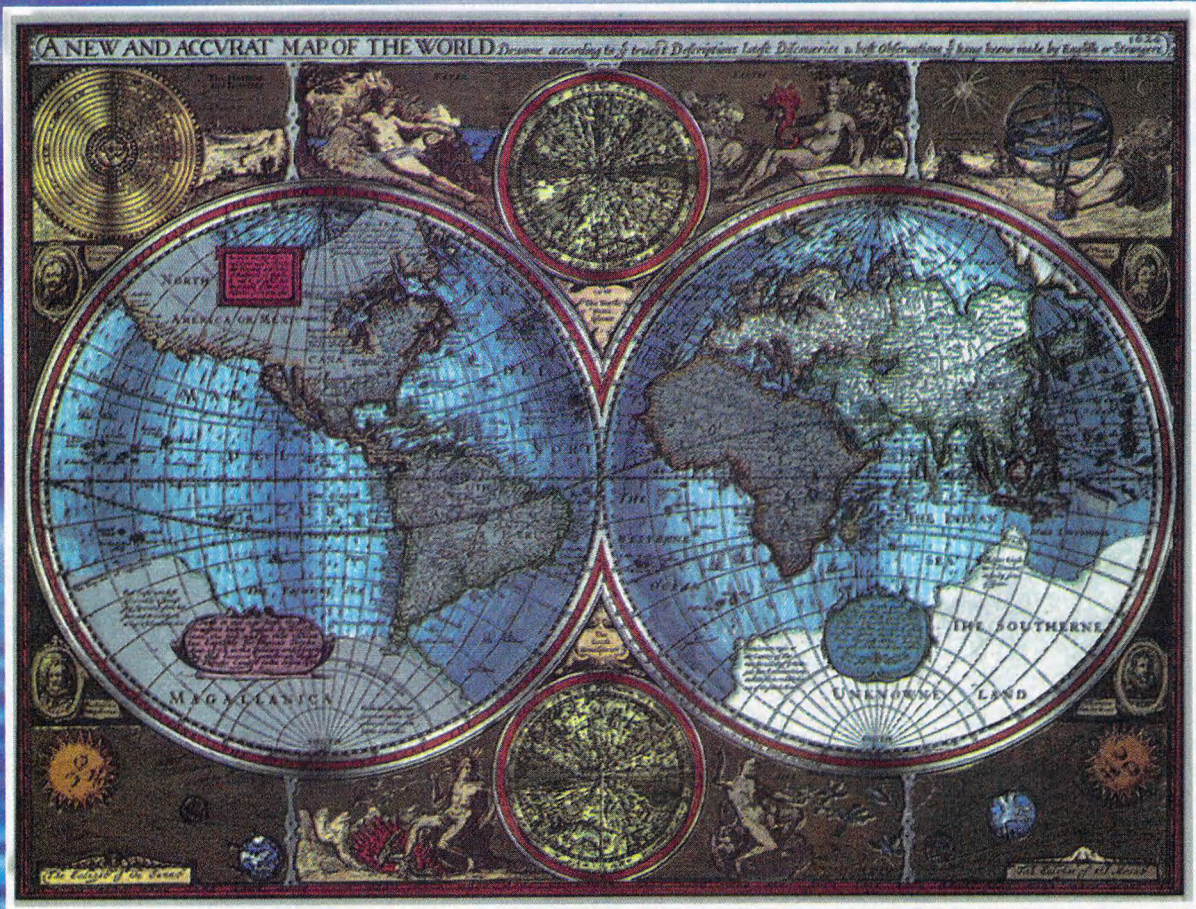
REPETITIVE STRAIN INJURY

Emil Pascarelli, MD
Deborah Quilter

Costs: \$14.95

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NETPAGES - THE INTERNET YELLOW PAGES

Every time I come across one of these yellow pages projects, I'm reminded for no particular reason of one of those "family incidents" that have become largely mythical. It's been told so many times in our family that I can't recall what parts of it actually happened, what parts got added on to improve the telling, and what parts I've made up since then on account of faulty memory.

It was one of those family gatherings with little family segments coming to the house from all over the country as a kind of holiday homecoming. And of course every segment had its share of altitudinally challenged little people. There actually were a couple or three highchairs in the vicinity as the entire clan was of a wont to breed widely and with some enthusiasm apparently. But given the migratory herd look of the throng of sub-three-footers, there weren't enough. One of the "in-betweens" looked nearly big enough for a regular chair, wasn't actually quite, and it didn't matter because he got that or the floor. The father loudly proclaimed it would be no problem at all as long as he could find a telephone book. Everyone in the room looked at him mystified. "Who could he be wanting to call?"

So my grandmother went in the other room to fetch the telephone book and brought it back in just a minute. He looked at her. She looked at him. He looked down at the phone book. She asked, "What in the world do you want the telephone book for?"

"Well, I thought I would have him sit on the phone book so he could see the table."

I know this story sounds like it needs an ending. Perhaps I should point out that my home town of Cape Girardeau sported a total population of about 18,000 at the time, and the telephone book was approximately 1/2 inch thick. And further, I'm not sure the whole thing didn't happen in Illmo Missouri, population of about 180 counting pigs and dogs, and you could actually blow your nose in their telephone book. The father of course had been living in a large metropolitan

area with a phone book about five or six inches thick that actually DID make a good booster seat for a wee one that wanted an occasional glimpse up over the edge of the table at what he was stabbing a fork into. The lesson is, local knowledge is key to success.

Similarly the yellow pages concept. I don't think there is a day passes at Boardwatch that someone isn't either proposing that we do a yellow pages, or informing us of this fascinating original idea. The simplicity of the reasoning is indeed a thing of beauty.

Virtually all of the telephone companies print a book called the "yellow pages" and it is an almost criminally profitable part of their business. The entire population is so trained in the art of yellow pagery, that it probably is one of the most effective local advertising mediums available. Virtually every business that does any local trade HAS to take a yellow pages ad, despite rapacious ad rates. And if any one is looking for a plumber, doctor, appliance repair, etc. they almost always go for the yellow pages to find one if they don't already know one.

Budding entrepreneurs see this, and do make the all the mental connections that 1. the pages are yellow, 2. They sell ads, and 3. If you could be the yellow pages for some new segment of the world, you too could spin straw into gold.

What's amazing is that they will invest considerable time, effort, and even money in the idea without the fifteen minutes it would take to mentally walk down the entire lane of why the pages are yellow in the first place. You would think that the naturally curious mind would ask "why yellow" and by this simple technique fairly naturally be led to the heart of the yellow pages mechanism and NOT miss the part that is absolutely key to their entrepreneurial idea WORKING in the first place.

The reason yellow pages are YELLOW is so they won't be mistaken for being WHITE.

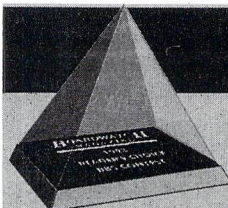
Yellow page directories did not emerge whole into the world as a brilliant idea. Telephone companies FIRST started publishing telephone books listing EVERYONE in the local

calling area or at least most of them. The entries cost nothing, and in fact it was a much later development of the concept that you could be NOT LISTED - or that being not listed would have any value. The "phone book" became ubiquitous because it was where you could look up anyone's "number." It was also a place where you could be listed, and as Steve Martin said in the movie "The Jerk," this is the kind of free advertising that "makes people."

When you print a book distributed free of charge to virtually the entire population, and the entire population HAS to use it to effectively use the telephone network, it won't be long before it dawns on some enterprising entrepreneur that if they could make THEIR entry bigger and more visually appealing, they would gain some competitive edge. And it was not long after that the telephone company (one in those days) began offering advertising opportunities in the back (actually some times in the front) of local telephone directories. For years the ad section was within the same covers as the regular directory, and to make it easier to locate, they colored the pages yellow. Actually there were several colors tried but yellow seemed to work.

Today, the yellow pages are sufficiently integrated into the national psyche, and telephone directories in major metropolitan areas are sufficiently large, that they are often published as separate volumes. But in many areas of the country, yellow pages and white pages are STILL in the same book.

The point to pick up here is that the reason yellow pages ever did work was that they were an add-on to a virtually universal, comprehensive, and all inclusive database of information that everyone had, had access to, and needed to have in order to effectively use the telephone. It was NOT successful simply because somebody liked the color yellow, or because businesses were inclined to spew cash at people who published ads. The link between the useful - nay critical - information and the ability to link advertising to it is non-trivial. Take it away, and you have nothing. Turn it around. If Boardwatch was ENTIRELY made up of advertisements, what would be the point of reading it, or advertising in it? True, if we did get the ad pages up to



1994

Readers' Choice BBS Contest

Boardwatch Magazine is sponsoring the Third Annual Readers' Choice BBS Contest to find the 100 most popular bulletin board systems in North America - and the ONE BBS most popular among callers. The contest will run from January 1, 1994 through June 30, 1994. Winners will be announced at the **Online Networking Exposition and BBS Convention** (ONE BBSCON) held in Atlanta, Georgia, August 17-21, 1994. The Boardwatch 100 list will be published in subsequent issues of Boardwatch Magazine and distributed in electronic form world-wide.

PRIZES FOR VOTERS

All valid ballots submitted by voters will be entered in a random sweepstakes drawing. As of the opening date of this contest, prizes include five U.S. Robotics Courier Top of the line Modems, five Hayes OPTIMA 288 V.FC + FAX modems, and five ZyXEL Top of the line modems - and more are on the way. A minimum of 15 valid ballots will be selected from all entries and each will receive a free modem - from the most popular modem manufacturers in the world.

RULES FOR CALLERS

Each voter can vote once, for a single bulletin board system. Each ballot must be **fully completed**, and individually mailed by each voter. We will verify ballots as necessary. There are three ways to vote:

1. Complete this ballot and mail to: BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE, READERS' CHOICE BBS CONTEST, 8500 W Bowles Ave, Suite 210, Littleton, CO 80123.
2. Complete this ballot and FAX to **(303)933-0876**.
3. Or, dial the Boardwatch BBS at **(303)973-4222** and complete the online ballot provided on the main menu.

Balloting closes at 23:59:59 on June 30, 1994.

This contest is not limited to Boardwatch Magazine subscribers, and no purchase is required to participate in this contest. Reasonable facsimiles of this ballot are acceptable, so long as all specified information is included.

Title of bbs you vote for as the BEST: _____

Primary BBS access telephone number: _____

Is this BBS a long distance or toll call for you? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Voter name: _____ Voice telephone number: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Primary communications software you use: _____

Primary modem manufacture and model: _____

Highest speed your modem supports: ☐ 1200bps ☐ 2400bps ☐ 9600bps ☐ 14400bps ☐ 19200bps ☐ 28800bps

Operating system: ☐ DOS ☐ OS/2 ☐ WINDOWS ☐ MAC ☐ AMIGA ☐ UNIX ☐ OTHER

Estimated BBS calls you make per month: _____ Average call duration: _____

Estimated investment in hardware and software: \$ _____

Primary online interest (check all that apply): ☐ Mail/Mail Conferences ☐ Games/Entertainment ☐ Chat/Social ☐ News/Information
☐ Shareware (Files)

Do you also maintain accounts on commercial services? ☐ AOL ☐ Compuserve ☐ Delphi/BIX ☐ GENie ☐ Prodigy ☐ None

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SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

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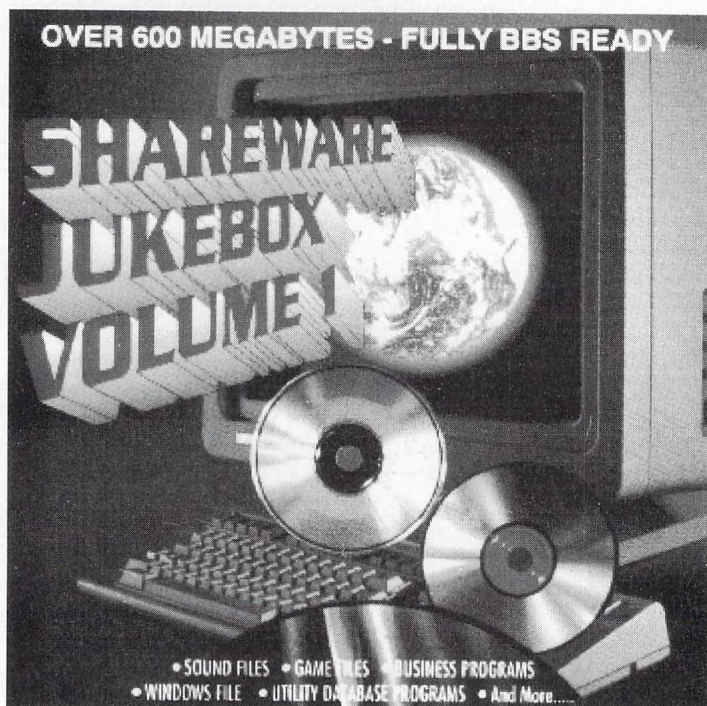
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1000 pages or so, the ads themselves would reach sufficient critical mass to become editorially engaging and useful, and in fact Stan Veit did just that with a publication titled Computer Shopper published out of Florida for many years - now a Ziff-Davis publication. But he spent 10 years and virtually every waking moment to bring it to a useful mass, and it remains something of an example of superhuman effort to reach that point. And since the Ziff acquisition, they've been adding editorial content to that as well.

The point is, you have to have the core information utility BEFORE you can make a yellow pages.

The latest effort is the Aldea NetPages project. Started by Susan Estrada, a very experienced and netsavvy Internaut from CERFnet, Aldea is publishing The Internet Directory, PREMIER EDITION. The publication will be available electronically, and also printed in hard copy and made available to any of UNIFORUM '94's 35,000 attendees that want it this March in San Francisco. Ads are reasonably priced at about \$500 per page - \$125 per quarter page. And it is perhaps most fascinating in that it demonstrates the difficulty of making the transition from an institutional, academic background to entrepreneurship. The white pages core component is simply non-functional.

The first YELLOW PAGES of the Internet will become economically viable approximately 8 to 12 seconds after the first WHITE PAGES of the Internet, with the same ubiquitous, comprehensive listing of ALL the e-mail addresses used on the network, becomes available. The first person to actually LIST all those 20 million e-mail addresses accurately and comprehensively, will be able to also sell yellow page advertisements quite successfully. NetPages does include a white pages directory - of about 10,000 addresses - not enough to be useful. Compiling a substantive database of addresses would, of course, be a very laborious and difficult task - and it seems everyone would like to leave out the hard parts. Until then, we would urge the would be yellow page miners to sit way up in their chair, crane their necks and take a good look at everything on the table. Aldea Communications, Inc., 7720 B El Camino Real, Box 117, Carlsbad, CA 92009; 800-TO-ALDEA voice; (619)943-0101 international; info@aldea.com

TCP/IP ILLUSTRATED, VOLUME I - THE PROTOCOLS

We do occasionally review books covering the Internet, how to use it, where to find things, and so forth. This has become one of the hot areas in computer book publishing, doubly strange since three years ago the only publisher in the world that would touch the stuff was Tim O'Reilly. Currently, they arrive in refrigerator-style cartons. The few really useful titles are not quite literature, and most are just terrible. But where and how found, we do like to point out the gems.

This book is a stone jewel. It is probably unsuitable for 99.9% of our readers. It isn't about how to navigate the Internet or find out where Rush Limbaugh lurks online. It IS a 600 page hardcover monster covering the Transmission Control Protocol, Internet Protocol, and the associated utilities and programs that make up what we commonly refer to as TCP/IP. It is NOT a caller book, it is a book for developers who want to understand how it works, so they can build things that work too.

Despite a lot of talk about TCP/IP, and some probably significant, but certainly scattered documentation in electronic form, it is actually very nearly impossible to find good technical literature describing it. The few titles available are generally brilliantly illustrated with tons of anecdotes about how the author has it all correct, and virtually everyone else on the planet has it screwed up. Our experience has been that in most cases the author does too, and we've found very little to work from in this area. Currently, the BBS community is in a frenzy of toolbuilding to form ever better attachments to the net. But it can be very difficult to find good documentation of just what this net is.

In the past, we've looked to a series of three volumes published by Prentice Hall and written by Douglas E. Comer and David L. Stevens, titled Internet-working with TCP/IP to be about all that was useable. These books run nearly \$65 each, and actually while Volume I is pretty good, we found little to work with in the succeeding two volumes. In the absence of anything else, they were as good as it got.

In 1990 Addison Wesley released what they call their Professional Computing Series, and they've tapped Brian W. Kernighan as the consulting editor for this series. To refresh your memory, Dennis M. Ritchie wrote a programming language for the DEC PDP-11 called "C" and actually used it to write UNIX for the DEC PDP-11 at Bell Laboratories. In 1978, Brian W. Kernighan teamed up with Ritchie to write a book documenting the language titled THE C PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE. It was a slim, inexpensively produced 226 page book with a white cover and blue titling that has come to be referred to as "the white book."

In any event, TCP/IP Illustrated - Volume I is one of the newer flagship books of this series. Written by W. Richard Stevens, this book probably provides the most comprehensive view of TCP/IP available today in print. It not only describes how these protocols work, but also illustrates why the design choices were made to make them work that way. It is replete with illustrations showing results of various tests to see if TCP/IP today actually does what they thought it should.

Like most TCP/IP documentation, it remains quite UNIX-centric, but he does make a serious effort at showing the differences between SunOS 4.1.3, Solaris 2.2, System V Release 4, BSD/386, AIX 3.2.2, and 4.4BSD. Though the long way around, in comparing the differences you can learn the heart of what matters in designing TCP/IP systems, and what elements are pretty much subject to "interpretation."

The book provides detailed diagrams and explanations of this layered protocol, internet addresses, the domain name system, application programming interfaces, etc. in sufficient detail you could probably write code from it. After establishing the basis for the protocol in gory detail, it covers a large library of programs such as ping, traceroute, broadcasting and multicasting, telnet and rlogin, ftp, finger, whois,archie, and many many more. Since many of these programs rely on TCP, it goes into extensive detail on establishing and terminating TCP connections, interactive data flow, bulk data flow, timeout and retransmission, keepalive timers, and more. Trying to describe this boring book without being boring is a little difficult. It is after all, a reference manual

TCP/IP Illustrated, Volume 1

The Protocols

W. Richard Stevens



ADDISON-WESLEY PROFESSIONAL COMPUTING SERIES

that must be gruesomely technical to fill its mission - which it does very well.

We found the chapters on Simple Mail Transfer Protocol quite informative. This is actually how electronic mail wends its way across the planet. It appears to work very much like having one computer call another and type in the messages one character at a time, but for good or ill, it's how it's done and Stevens describes it well.

Writing technical documentation at this level is one of the most difficult writing tasks in the world. Stevens does an excellent job of it. The writing style is readable - an immense accomplishment under the circumstances. More importantly for this type of work, it is accessible via a very good organization, and sufficiently detailed to be useful.

If you're looking for a good afternoon read, pass this one by. And if you want to explore the fascinating world of the Internet, you'll still miss the mark with this book. But if you are in software development, and feel the pressure to do substantive work in TCP/IP connectivity, this book is now king of the hill as far as we're concerned. TCP/IP Illustrated, Volume I, ISBN 0-201-63346-9, 600 pages, \$47.50. Addison Wesley Publishing Company, Corporate and Professional Publishing Group, One Jacob Way, Reading Massachusetts 01867; (800)822-6339.

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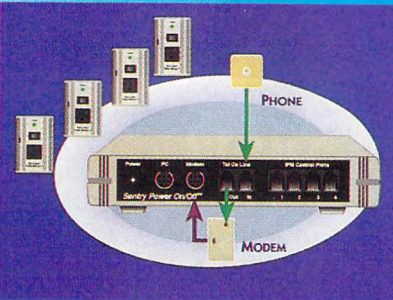
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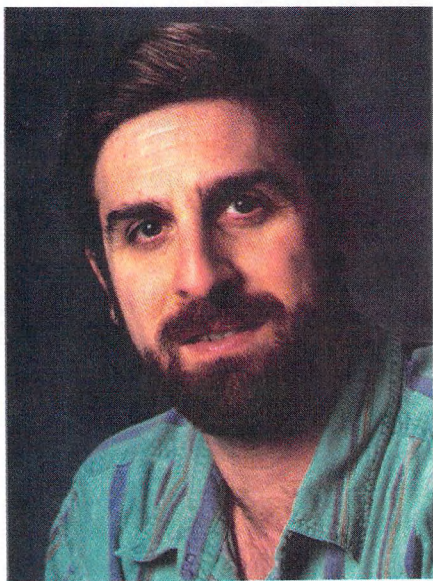
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SEARCHING FOR THE INFORMATION SUPER-HIGHWAY

by Harley Hahn and Wendy Murdock



It was a few miles out of Jay, Oklahoma, just in front of the American Legion Post 195 when Wendy had her first important insight.

"You know," she said, "I don't think I trust those guys. You know what the Feds are like. First they are going to start mucking around with the Internet; the next thing you know they will want to start regulating it."

"Don't worry," I replied, "they're not smart enough to cause any real damage."

She frowned. "You don't really think that's going to stop them, do you?"

We were sitting in a small, brown, nondescript car of uncertain age and parentage outside a dreary looking rectangular metal building. We had come to Oklahoma on a quest — a search for the Information Superhighway — and now, somewhere on the outskirts of Jay, Oklahoma (the home of the Delaware County spelling bee champions), we had taken a wrong turn and ended up in front of American Legion Post 195, next to an old blue Ford pickup with a dented and rusted front panel, watching some unknown inhabitant root around in a large beat up dumpster.

Wendy sat there transfixed, looking at the shadowy figure as he clumped around inside the dumpster. No doubt

he too was — in his own way — looking for the Information Superhighway.

Suddenly she sat up. "Oh Mercy," she said, "I think that man is armed. Let's get out of here."

So we did. We pointed the brown box back to the main road and headed northeast to Missouri for the next leg of what would be a short but savage journey through four states. Along the way we would find strange and bizarre people, drive blindly through a drenching thunderstorm, and (in Joplin, Missouri) encounter the best pizza between the Mississippi and the California coast — all of which comprised our personal search for the Information Superhighway — a search which began innocently enough only three days before, in the lecture hall of the University of Arkansas Law School in Fayetteville.

The date was Friday March 4, 1994. The occasion was an appearance by Greg Simon, the Chief Domestic Policy Advisor for the Office of Vice President. More than that, Greg is the VP's main man when it comes to the fabulous Information Superhighway, which was the topic of his talk.

As the Northwest Arkansas Times ("printed on recycled paper with soy ink") made clear the next day, Greg is a man who knows how to sell a dream. He invited us to: "imagine a future where you talk to your television, watch your telephone, or tell your celestial jukebox that you want to hear 'Only You'"

No doubt the possibility IS an inviting one. After all, who among us could listen to a speech entitled "Memory Lane and The Street of Dreams", delivered by a Highly-Placed Administration Official, and not be inspired?

So there we were, sitting in the same seats that had once been occupied by Bill and Hillary, listening to another graduate (summa cum laude) of the U of Arkansas Law School wax eloquent about government, the economy, and how the Information Superhighway was going to create 500,000 new jobs by 1996.

All very fine, we said to ourselves, but what WAS this Information Superhighway thing anyway? I mean, where was it? Did it really exist? Greg thought yes, but he also admitted that he had only been using the Internet

less than two weeks. It occurred to us that this was a Very Large Question, one of National Importance.

Clearly, this called for a road trip.

And that is why, a little over a day later, we found ourselves driving on the outskirts of Galena, Kansas, lost in the dark amid the farmland north of town. We had long ago passed our last street sign (at the corner of Jeffery and Forest) and had been wandering in a torrential rain, desperately searching for any indication of the Information Superhighway. For instinct told us that if the thing really existed we would find it here, in the symbolic heartland of rural America.

The guy at the last gas station was no help at all. We had pulled up in Seneca, Missouri and as we cleaned the windshield (so as to better see the lightning), the attendant came over.

"Anything I can do for y'all?"

"Sure thing," I answered, "we're looking for the Information Superhighway."

He looked at me blankly. I could see that this might be difficult. Obviously, the news of Greg Simon's speech had not yet penetrated into this corner of Missouri.

"This is not just a regular car," I explained, thumping it three times on the hood for emphasis. "This is The Brown Box. Don't you see? This is a quest. We are looking for the Information Superhighway. This is the Future of America, maybe the Entire Free World we are talking about here. You know, the Internet, Al Gore, telephone companies, fiber optic cable, television with 600 channels... Are you going to tell me that you have never heard of the Information Superhighway? Why it's supposed to be everywhere. What we want to know is, Bobby Joe, have you seen it? That's what we are after."

He looked surprised. "How did you know my name is Bobby Joe?"

I pointed to the letters stitched over the pocket of his shirt.

"Yeah, but this is my cousin's shirt... Course his name is Bobby Joe too, but I don't see how you guys could have known that." He pulled out an old map from his back pocket, unfolded it on the hood of the car, and leaned

over to study it. "Now, just what highway was it that you folks were lookin' for?"

"The Information Superhighway."

"Can't say that I see it on this here map at all. I don't think you can get there from here. Maybe my cousin will know. He knows just about every road 'round these parts. Hold on a sec, he's out back. I'll go ask him."

"Is that your cousin Bobby Joe?"

"Yeah, you know him?"

"I think I might have met him on the Internet one time. Is he tall with black hair, kinda quiet?"

"Naw, must be some other guy. Bobby Joe is short and fat and about as nervous as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. And he doesn't much go for those fancy nightclubs. Y'all must be thinking of somebody else."

Its was just like Greg Simon had said. More choices lead to better service and lower prices. Just ask Bobby Joe. The question, though, is how to deal with this "future world". According to Simon, the roles of government are to protect the public interest, clear regulatory barriers, and provide incentives for new investment. "This is a new animal and we need a new way of regulating new things."

But, would you trust this guy to regulate the Internet? That is what bothered Wendy and, somehow, that was the question at the heart of our journey. The more we thought about it, the more it became... essential... that we head out and search for the Information Superhighway personally. Instinct told us that we weren't going to find it in Al Gore's office but, maybe, just maybe, with the right type of eyes and with some help from Bobby Joe and his cousin, we might pick up a clue in Seneca, Missouri so we waited patiently.

"Hey, y'all might just be in luck," said Bobby Joe when he returned. "My cousin seems to remember something about a new highway they just put in on the other side of the Kansas border. He thinks it might have something to do with some Formation thing or other. He says y'all need to head up 43, then down a piece on the freeway, then up 166 towards Baxter Springs. Fun-

RESOURCES

"Who owns the Internet? Who's running the show? I don't have a clue."

— Greg Simon (Friday March 4, 1994; 4:05 PM)
Chief Domestic Policy Advisor Office of the Vice President of the United States

Clearly, Greg Simon is one cool dude. If you want to talk to him directly, you can send him mail at: gsimon@arpa.mil

If you want to talk to Vice President Gore himself, write to: vice-president@whitehouse.gov

Of course, writing to Important Government Officials can lose its charm (especially when they don't write back). Instead, you may want to investigate the government itself. A good way to start is by checking out some of the many gophers that offer such information:

ace.esusda.gov
esusda.gov
ftp.senate.gov
infopath.ucsd.edu
marvel.loc.gov
scilibx.ucsc.edu
stis.nsf.gov
sunsite.unc.edu
wiretap.spies.com

To connect directly to a particular gopher, use the gopher command with a specific address. For example: **`gopher ace.esusda.gov`**

For an explanation of gophers and how to use them, see *The Internet Complete Reference*, Chapter 21 (Hahn & Stout, published by Osborne McGraw-Hill, ISBN 0-07-881980-6).

The sunsite.unc.edu gopher is cool because you can do a keyword search. First, choose the item named: **NEWS! (News, Entertainment, Weather, and Sports)**

Then, choose the item: **The Electronic Newsstand**

Now, choose: **Search All Electronic Newsstand Articles by Keyword**

You can now enter anything you want to search for. (You do need to distinguish between upper- and lowercase letters.) For example, try to search for: **information superhighway**

You will be presented with a lot of articles that contain those words and you can choose whichever ones you want.

One way to find gopher items dealing with the Information Superhighway (or any topic) is to use Veronica to search gopherspace. Again, you do not have to distinguish between upper and lowercase when you specify the search criteria. Try using Veronica to search for: **information superhighway**

This will look for all the gopher items (that Veronica knows about) that contain these two words. (For more information about Veronica and the related service, Jughead, see *The Internet Complete Reference*, Chapter 21.)

Aside from gopherspace, the Internet has other facilities that feature information about the U.S. Federal government. Here are two sites to which you can telnet (it is not necessary to log in):

fedworld.gov
locis.loc.gov

For some interesting government-related files that you can download via Anonymous FTP, try: <ftp.senate.gov>

If you are interested in discussing some of the topics we touched upon in this article, you can

check the Usenet newsgroup which is devoted to the concerns of the Electronic Frontier Foundation: **`comp.org.eff.talk`**

For debate about the government and cryptography, try: **`talk.politics.crypto`**

Aside from Serious Topics, you may be interested in finding out about the places Wendy and I visited. To do so, you can use the Geography Server at the University of Michigan. Simply telnet to the address below and specify a port number of **3000** (you do not need to log in): **`telnet martini.eecs.umich.edu 3000`**

Once you connect, you can enter **help** for instructions. Basically, all you need to do is enter the name of a city or a zip code. Hint: If the output scrolls by so fast that you can't read it, use your "pause" key. For example, with Unix, use Ctrl-S to pause and Ctrl-Q to continue.

If you are planning a trip of your own and (unlike us) you want to check the weather before you start, you can telnet to the Weather Server, also at the University of Michigan. Again, you must specify a port number of **3000**: **`telnet downwind.sprl.umich.edu 3000`**

Another way to check weather is by using a gopher at the University of Minnesota: **`gopher ash-pool.micro.umn.edu`**

From the main menu, select **Weather**.

After reading this article, a lot of you will probably want to go on a road trip with Wendy. Sorry, Wendy prefers to spend her time with people who WRITE articles. Still, you may derive some vicarious satisfaction out of reading about other people's strange travel experiences. If so, try the Wiretap gopher: **`gopher wiretap.spies.com`**

From the main menu, choose: **Wiretap Online Library**

then select: **Articles**

and finally: **Journeys and Travels**

Alternatively, the same files are available via Anonymous FTP from: <ftp.spies.com>

Look in the directory: **`/Library/Article/Journey`**

For general travel information, you can use Anonymous FTP to check out the Usenet archive (maintained by Jonathan Kamens) at: rtfm.mit.edu

Look in the directory: **`/pub/usenet/rec.answers/travel`**

Within this directory, the sub-directory **air** contains files about airline fares and tickets. The file **ftp-archive** contains information about how to get all sorts of travel information. The file **online-info** contains a list of travel-related resources available on the Internet. And the file **tourism-offices** will show you where to ask for travel information about hundreds of different destinations around the world (including Oklahoma).

Finally, the "Pizza by Stout" restaurant really does have the best homemade pizza in that part of the world. The restaurant is on 2102 Range Line in Joplin, Missouri and the phone is (417) 782-1616. The owner is Joy Stout. Mention our names if you wander in there. If you happen to be in Seneca, Missouri, there is another "Pizza by Stout" owned by Joy's sister Gail. The number in Seneca is (417) 776-3217. Wendy actually hates celery and black olives, but you might like them.

ny, though, he don't seem to remember you at all. Maybe y'all is mixin' him up with some other Bobby Joe." So we followed Bobby Joe's directions. After all, this was a quest and we were prepared to go wherever was necessary in the name of Truth and Freedom to search for the Information Superhighway.

And that is how, just outside of Baxter Springs, Kansas, we took a wrong turn and found ourselves driving through Galena and into some of the loneliest farmland this side of the Oklahoma border, trying desperately to find a light or even a sign of civilization.

"Wendy" I said, "are you sure that this part of the country is settled?"

"You worry too much," she replied. "Look up there, a farmhouse. We can stop and ask directions."

"Are you crazy? This is the backwoods of Kansas. They eat people like us for breakfast. They'll set the dogs on us before we get ten yards away from the car."

But it was too late. She had turned in and it wasn't thirty seconds before a large, family-sized farmboy had lumbered over to the car and poked his head in the window. He then turned back towards the house. "From my lips to God's ears," we heard him mumble to someone behind him, "if it ain't a pretty city woman just like I was a'prayin' fer in church last week".

Wendy turned to me. "It's going to be okay, I know his type. I can handle this."

"Handle it?", I said. "What are you talking about? These guys probably haven't seen a woman up here for fifteen years since the last quilting bee. Nothing for you to worry about anyway, he just wants to marry you and make you cook biscuits and gravy. They're going to tie me to a post and force me to slop the hogs."

But she was already talking to the fellow. "Hey, Bobby Joe, y'all wanna help us with some directions?"

The farmboy stared at her as if he couldn't believe his eyes. Not only had his prayer been answered, but she had the voice of an angel. Wendy often has this effect on unsuspecting males, but this guy was about as unsuspecting as

a chicken at a fox party. "Hey, how'd y'all know that my name was Bobby Joe?"

"Oh come on now," she pouted coquettishly, "are you trying to tell me that you don't remember me?"

This shook him a little and gave her the advantage she needed.

"Anyway, Bobby Joe, we are lookin' for the Information Superhighway and we thought maybe you could direct us to it."

For a moment he stared blankly, but then a look of comprehension crawled over his face. "Oh yeah, I think I know the place. It's over towards Joplin, ain't it. Near that pizza place."

Which is how we ended up in Joplin, Missouri. We entered town on Route 66, crossed over Schifferdecker Avenue and stopped at a convenience store called Jon's Pit Stop. Jon wasn't there so we talked to Buford, Jon's authorized representative; but it turned out that Buford — like Bobby Joe, Al Gore and Greg Simon — had no real idea where to find the Information Superhighway. Still, he did know where to get pizza, and so, not ten minutes later, we found ourselves at a table, menus in front of us, talking to Joy Stout, the attractive and charming proprietor of "Pizza by Stout".

"The thing is," we explained to her, "it's a matter of trust. And we just can't seem to conjure up a willing suspension of disbelief long enough to trust these Washington jokers with the Internet. After all, look what they are doing with the Clipper chip."

"What do you mean?", she asked.

"Don't you see? They want to put this special computer chip into everyone's communication equipment so that when you send encoded messages they can tap your line and decode the data."

"Can they do that? Don't they need a special password or something?"

"Well, they think they can. And they say they will keep all the passwords in a safe place where no one can get at them without a court order."

"And you believe that?" Joy wrinkled her forehead. "I don't even let people make pizza without some supervision. Do you trust the government with all those passwords?"

"Joy, it's not just a matter of trust and integrity, or rather it's more than that. It's a matter of judgment. Look, do you have any children?"

She looked at me thoughtfully. "No," she said, "I don't do children."

"Well, if you did, you certainly wouldn't leave them alone to run a pizza restaurant would you? It's the same thing. I would like to believe that they mean well, but they just don't know what they are doing. And they never will know. They simply don't have the time to investigate properly. It takes months of using the Internet to really understand how it works, and time is something that these guys just don't have."

"The other day, Wendy and I listened to Al Gore's Chief Domestic Policy Advisor make a Chief Domestic Policy Speech all about the Information Superhighway, and the guy didn't have any idea what he was talking about. Moreover, he gave every indication that he shouldn't even be given the keys to the family car, let alone all the secret passwords for the Clipper chip."

"Well then he couldn't get a job here. We only hire responsible employees," said Joy. "What exactly did he do?"

"Get this. Someone asked him about the Clipper chip and he went on and on about the need for national security but, essentially, it all boiled down to 'You should just trust us.' And then, to demonstrate that he understood computer security, he explained how the system works in his office. He showed us his Macintosh laptop computer and explained that when he was on the road, he would dial in to the main computer in Washington. The system was set up to use a secret code in the form of a 6-digit number and the program in his laptop computer knew which number to use."

"Moreover, the two computers were coordinated so that they automatically changed the 6-digit code every sixty seconds. That way, anyone using another computer to connect to the Washington office wouldn't get far because their program would not know

the code. And even if they did find out the code, it wouldn't matter because it would be changed automatically every sixty seconds."

"And wouldn't that work?"

Wendy looked up. "It might work and it might not. Certainly this guy thought it would work. He was as happy as a horse in an oat factory, telling us all about his security system. But then, after the speech, there was a reception in the next room and he went off for over an hour, leaving his laptop computer in plain view on the desk in an empty, unlocked room."

"Hell," I said, "I was tempted to take the thing myself and hack into the Washington computer just on general principles. The only thing that stopped me was that I was afraid that someone would see me using a Macintosh."

"And these people want to run all this stuff?" Joy asked. "Why, I wouldn't trust this guy to set up a salad bar."

Wendy took a big bite of pizza covered with celery and black olives. "It's worse than you think. We are talking about a Chief Domestic Policy Advisor here. These people have a lot of power. It's scary. I remember him saying, 'The first role of government in developing the Superhighway is to prevent a system of haves and have-nots.' He claimed that one of the goals of the Clinton administration is to put an Information Superhighway connection into every classroom, library and hospital within five years."

"But who's going to pay for all of this?"

"Exactly. Who pays for anything these guys decide to do? In this case, he said that the whole thing would be developed by partnerships between government and private industry."

Joy looked thoughtful. "Look, I run a pizza restaurant so I know something about private industry. You just can't expect a company to voluntarily pay for something just 'cause the government thinks it's a good thing. Why would a private company want to help pay for wiring up every classroom and library in the country? Business people have to make money and they don't invest unless there is a realistic chance of a profit. I can't believe these guys

are serious. Why do they even want to get mixed up with all of this Internet thing you keep talking about? Is it having some kind of trouble that it needs government help?"

"To the contrary," said Wendy. "The Internet is doing just fine and we certainly don't need the Feds setting policy goals. The Internet works because it responds to the needs of the people who use it and the needs of the marketplace. But you have to understand the motivation of these government people."

"Here look, I have some notes. Here's what he said:"

'Our parents hated rock 'n' roll. What's the big deal now? This is it. We're the transition generation between a fossilized system and the free flow of information. The question we should ask ourselves is whether to follow our vision, or follow our fears.'

Joy looked puzzled for a moment. "Geez, and this guy is a big cheese in Washington? He makes me feel as nervous as a prostitute in church. It seems like these guys are all having a mid-life crisis and they expect us to pay the bill. Hell, I have a computerized sign in front of the restaurant that no one can get working. Do you think they can send someone down to fix it for me?"

"Not unless you connect it to the Information Superhighway."

"But what is this Information Superhighway that you guys keep talking about?"

And then it hit me. The speech by Al Gore's main man. The trip through four states. Billy Joe and the boys. Even the "Pizza by Stout" restaurant with its broken computer sign. It was all coming together into a Big Picture. And finally, I understood:

There is no "Information Superhighway." It's just an expression used by people who don't have a clue what they are talking about. You see, all the reporters, executives, and government policy wonks talk about this thing like it really exists but the truth of it is... it's just made up.

Sorry, but "Information Superhighway" is a meaningless catch phrase used by people who are scared to admit that they don't have a clue as to what

is really happening with all this computer network stuff. They pretend they understand because if they stopped long enough to think, they would realize that the times are a'changin' faster than they like and they really have no idea what is happening. So instead of hunkering down and learning how to use Anonymous FTP and a Gopher, they talk speciously about the Information Superhighway and give speeches that encourage us to "follow our vision".

And so you may well ask, where is this vision of the future, this so-called Information Superhighway? Where can we find this holy grail of the baby booming government-funded power junkies?

Well, it's just like Billy Joe said back in that gas station in Seneca, Missouri: "You can't get there from here."



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CICNet 2901 Hubbard Street Ann Arbor, MI 48109 Voice# (313)998-6103 Fax# (313)998-6105 (internet) info@cic.net	\$35 month \$2.50 hour prime time \$2 hour non prime time \$175 registration	InterAccess 9400 W. Foster Ave Suite 111 Chicago, IL 60656 Voice# (708) 671-0111 Fax# (708) 671-0113 (internet) info@interaccess.com	\$5 month \$2.20 hour \$50 registration
Clark Internet Services 10600 Route 108 Ellicott City, MD 21042 Voice# (800)735-2258 (Maryland Relay Service) Then Give the following # (410)730-9764 Fax# (410)730-9765 Data# (410)730-9786 (internet) info@clark.net	\$30 month \$264 annual \$25 registration	ISLAND NET Victoria, BS Voice# (604)478-7861 BBS# (604)477-5163 (internet) mark@island.com	\$2.00 hour \$75.00 setup
CNS Internet Express 1155 Kelly Johnson Blvd. Suite 400 Colorado Springs, CO 80920 Voice# (719)592-1240 (800)748-1200 Fax# (719)592-1201 (internet) info@cscns.com	\$10 monthly minimum \$2.75 hour \$8.00 hour 800 service \$35.00 registration	Maestro Technologies 29 John St New York City, NY 10038 Voice# (212)240-9600 BBS# (212)240-9700 (internet) staff@maestro.com	\$100 month \$125 setup
Colorado Supernet Colorado School of Mines 1500 Illinois Street Golden, CO 80401 Voice # (303)273-3471 Fax# (303)273-3475 (Internet) info@csn.org	\$3 hour \$40 registration \$15 month mininum	MCSnet 3217 N. Sheffield Chicago, IL 60657 Voice# (312)248-UNIX Fax# (312)248-8649 BBS# (312)248-0900 (internet) info@mcs.com	\$2.00 hour first 5 hours \$1.00 thereafter in a calendar month \$15.00 month minimum charge. \$10.00/setup
CyberGate, Inc. 662 South Military Trail Deerfield Beach, FL 33442 Voice# (305)428-4283 Fax# (305)428-7977 (Internet) info@gate.net	\$20 month includes 10 hrs \$1 hour above 10 hrs \$50 setup fee	Merit/MichNet 2901 Hubbard Pod G Ann Arbor, MI 48105 Voice# (313)764-9430 Fax# (313)747-3185 (internet) info@merit.edu	\$35 month \$40 registration
Doyle Monroe Consultants 267 Cox Street Hudson, MA 01749 Voice# (508)568-1618 Fax# (508)562-1133 (internet) info@dmc.com	Free Thirty day trial period. Variety of plans starting as low as \$5 a month, wil never exceed \$150 a month	MIDnet 501 N Tenth Rm 124 Lincoln, NB 68588 Voice# (402)472-8971 Fax# (402)472-8486 (internet) cfarnham@unl.edu	\$60 month \$150 registration
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IDS World Network 3 Franklin Rd East Greenwich, RI 02818 Voice# (401)885-6855 Fax# N/A (internet) info@ids.com	\$15 month \$80 6 months \$150 year	Neosoft, Inc 3408 Mangum Houston, TX 77092 Voice# (713)684-5969 Fax# (713)684-5922 (internet) info@neosoft.com	\$54.95 per month

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San Jose, CA 95117
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Fax# (408)241-9145
(internet) info@netcom.com

\$25 month low volume
mail \$45 month news &
mail feed. \$60 month
Telnet & FTP \$50
registration

PANIX

Voice# (212)787-6160
(internet) info@panix.com

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\$10 month for a user
account

RAIN

Box 2683
Santa Barbara, CA 93120
Voice# (805)899-8610
fax# (805)568-2299
Data# (805)899-8600
(internet) rain@rain.org

\$50 month
\$200 registration

The Dallas Infomart

1950 Stemmens Freeway
Suite 5001
Dallas, TX 75207
Voice# (214)746-4710
Fax# (214)746-4856
(internet) info@onramp.net

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\$75 Registration

The Well

27 Gate 5 Road
Sausalito, CA 94965
Voice# (415)332-4335
Fax# (415)332-1669
(internet) info@well.sf.ca.us

\$35 month
\$1 hour
\$50 registration

UUNET Technologies

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Voice# (800)488-6384
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(internet) info@uunet.uu.net

\$36 month
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XNet

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Lisle, IL 60532
Voice# (708)983-6064
BBS# (708)983-6435
(internet) info@xnet.com

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\$5 month minimum

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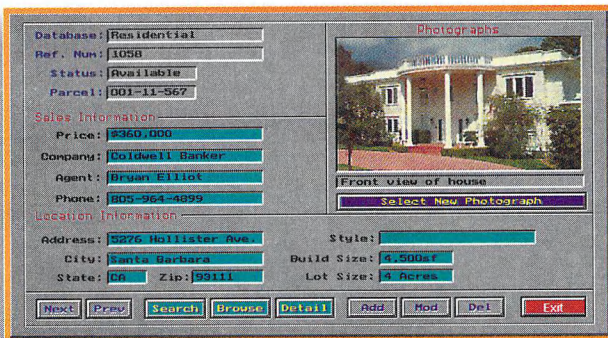
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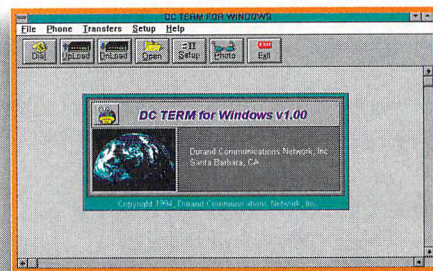
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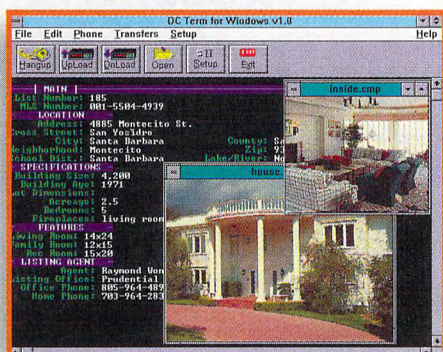
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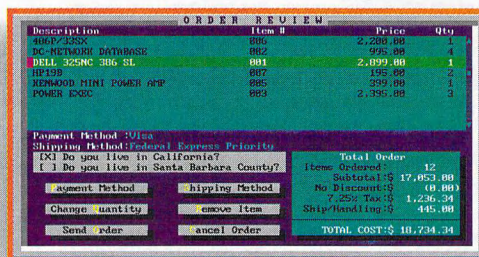
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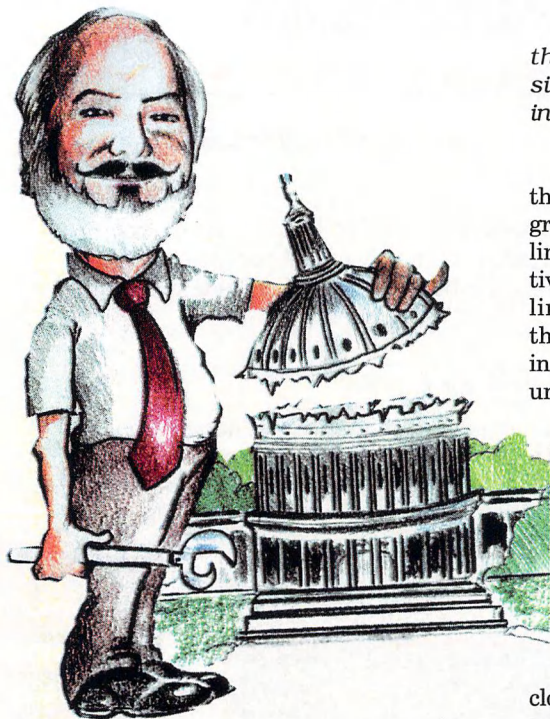
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ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT

HOW CITIZENS CAN PURSUE PRACTICAL, POTENT, GRASSROOTS POLITICAL ACTION — NET-BASED, COMPUTER-AIDED

by Jim Warren



These columns concern computer-assisted access to government.

There are two reasons for wanting access:

- 1). A docile serf's interest and fear concerning what benefit and harm his or her Master has decided to impose.
- 2). A free[wo]man's interest in participating in the process of his own governance — exercising citizen control over government power.

The latter requires the power to act — to effectively participate in shaping one's own destiny, the difference between a slave and a freeman — as well as timely access to information on which to base informed action.

This details how individuals can personally pursue powerful, effective political action. I am convinced that its use will explode in the '96 presidential elections and will mature by 1999.

Delightfully, this only works for positions that have broad public support, though usually among disorganized and geographically scattered citizens. It's useless for covert special interests; in fact, it can overpower their insiders' clout.

Let me not understate this:

I believe that the mature version of this approach will dominate irresistible citizen-based political action in the 21st Century.

I stumbled into developing parts of this while pursuing last year's net-based grassroots effort that mandated free on-line access to California's [sic] legislative and statutory information, and outlined what I realized at the time, of these net-based grassroots techniques, in my December, 1993, *BoardWatch* column.

However, this adds *major* features and enormously expands its empowerment of individual citizens.

Within the limits of time, I expect to personally use it this year to

- (1) help make state political disclosures and other public records freely and timely available, electronically,
- (2) redress the Clinton/Gore administration's bizarre anti-privacy efforts to prohibit peep-proof personal and business communications, and
- (3) reverse the Patent Office's zeal to grant 20-year monopoly-patents for every iota of software innovation — but only to those with enough wealth and lawyers to obtain them and defend them.

However, this political-action system is presented here, in general terms.

TYPES OF APPLICATIONS

Typical citizen uses include:

Persuade one decision-maker — an elected official, appointed commissioner, public administrator, President, etc.

Persuade a controlling percentage of a small legislative or policy-making group — typically a majority of a state

or Congressional legislative committee or Commission or Board of some kind.

Persuade a controlling percentage of a larger group — usually the upper or lower house of a state legislature or Congress.

The following first outlines some political fundamentals, then offers nuts-'n'-bolts details of how to apply networked computers to those fundamentals to achieve citizen-based control over government.

FUNDAMENTAL ASSUMPTION

The body politic — given (1) adequate information on which to base informed decisions, (2) adequate time in which to fully consider the information, and (3) the belief that its actions can make a difference — will act for the common good, better than any single overseer or governing body. The only alternative is a Master Class ruling subservient citizen-serfs.

POLITICAL PLATITUDES

Government is force. (George Washington said it.)

Politics is persuasion. (I said it, though surely thousands of others have said it before me.) Thus, political power is the power of persuasion — the power to motivate others to do as you wish — company politics, community politics, sexual politics, etc. This concerns governmental politics — using persuasion to control government force.

Given that government imposes force upon us all, it is absolutely justified for any citizen — hoping to control his or her own destiny — to pursue maximum political action, seeking to persuade as many others as possible to join together in directing government. It's also absolutely inescapable.

Politics is about persuading government decision-makers — singularly and in globs — to use government force as it "should" be used, which of course, is determined by the eye of the beholder.

It particularly concerns persuading constituents to direct their representatives, and voters to replace unresponsive elected officials with candidates who appear like they *will* be responsive, or — in

the case of ballot initiatives — to vote as they “should” vote on such measures.

MATH PREREQUISITE

Politics had its own “modern math” — memorized by every successful politician. Example:

Most of the House of Representative’s 535 Congressional Districts have perhaps 560,000 population. But only about half of the population is registered to vote — maybe 280,000 per District. And only about half to two-thirds of those who are registered typically vote — 140,000 to about 180,000, often identifiable by how recently they registered and the number and types of recent elections in which they voted.

Naive potential activists might then think they need to persuade at least half of about 160,000 voters to support their views — and promptly give up, wheezing, “You can’t fight city hall.” Not so!

Most contested elections (with numerous exceptions) are won by a 5% to 10% margin, or less — perhaps 7,000 to 18,000 of the typical number of actual voters in a typical House race. And that’s the backbone-dissolving hidden horror haunting professional politicians:

A single individual who can swing 35,000 to 9,000 voters from one side to the opposite side can often control an election!

Furthermore, the most-persuasive political advocacy is by non-partisan citizens contacting other citizens — for elections — or by groups of them to their elected representative(s) — for government action.

Politicians *know* how powerful any single persuasive, tenacious citizen can be.

FURTHER POLITICAL PRAGMATICS

Elected officials enter and remain in the meat-grinder of public office for some shifting combination of three rewards: ego to feel good, power to do good, and salary+percs as compensation for difficult work — just like most folks who hold jobs that they like. Ego, however, tends to play a much bigger part than in most other jobs. Thus stroking it and flailing it can be more persuasive in politics than in most other environs.

Excluding physical force, there are three approaches that are irresistibly persuasive to elected officials:

Praise and/or other rewards for desirable action,

Criticism and/or other penalties for undesired action,

Apparent ability to *potentially* impact their ability to remain in the elective offices from which all their rewards flow.

And the *belief* by an elected official that a citizen can deliver significant support for or opposition to their re-election completely overshadows the power of the first two rewards — including financial “rewards” from lobbyists and special interests.

To emphasize: *The potential ability to sway only a few-thousand voters for or against an elected official is the most persuasive tool in real-world democratic politics.*

And our interconnected thinkertoys massively-enhance citizens’ personal political power — as individuals, ignoring wealth (but requiring tenacity). Here’s tomorrow’s grassroots political-action system, available now:

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

User must have at least the following equipment:

Desktop computer with a diskette or “large” hard disk (size hints, later),

Modem, 2400-baud or higher and basic datacomm software, connected to a residential-quality dial-up telephone or better (a fax-modem increases the system’s political power),

Plain-paper, solid-character printer with a typewriter-style monofont; laser-printer optional but preferred (color printer may be useful; dot-matrix printers are harmful), and

For state or federal action, a personal account on an Internet host is essential, typically costing under \$30/month.

That’s all.

Caveat: Such equipment and connections should belong to an individual citizen-activist and be used on their own time — protected by the First Amendment’s speech and assembly freedoms —

or be owned and operated by a registered political organization.

They’d best not belong to a school, nonprofit organization, business or corporation nor operated during work-hours. Otherwise, they become “in-kind” political contributions that may be prohibited or require disclosure in formal campaign filings. (Incidentally, the same holds true for telephones, copying machines, etc., used for political action — Beware!)

DATA REQUIREMENTS

The body politic must be able to communicate with itself; i.e., it must be able to identify and locate its decision-makers — its voters.

A soapbox in Hyde Park is no longer sufficient for effective political action. Modern activism, if it is to be significant, *requires* access to voter-registration data in machine-readable form — at least names and mailing addresses for the action’s targeted area(s). These are almost-universally available, usually at very low cost, though often only on 9-track dinosaur-compatible magtape. (Beware! Some incumbent politicians and political machines, already having well-developed voter lists, want to severely restrict such citizen access to the nation’s most-powerful decision-makers, the voters, in the name of “privacy.”)

It is *preferable* but not essential to also have computerized names, addresses and fax numbers of broadcast and print news-media and reporters, and of radio talk-show hosts, and for community organizations and businesses and their leaders, and of elected officials and senior public administrators — helpful but not essential.

OPERATOR SKILLS

Colonial times and the radio era required oratorical skills to be politically effective; that excludes many of us. In the TV era, a pretty face and svelte body are perhaps the most important political prerequisite; which excludes most of us. In contrast, this citizen-action system is based on content; not slick voice nor trite facade. Our computers are our Great Equalizers. But we do need ability:

1. At least one person must be skilled in writing persuasive communications — just as was essential in the times of Patrick Henry’s electrifying

pamphlets and the anonymously-authored Federalist Papers.

2. Someone must have working knowledge of how the targeted real-world political environment actually operates — local, state, federal, legislative, executive, administrative, elective or regulatory, and so on.

3. One or several people need to be able to build and maintain simple datafiles — most being rather small except for an area's voter-reg files, which can still fit easily on a micro. E.g., something less than 800,000 voter-reg records for Silicon Valley's Santa Clara County take less than 275 megabytes in uncompressed fixed-field format.

3.5. Desktop-computer graphic-arts skills sufficient to create simple 8-1/2" x 11" leaflet-copy about the advocacy subject may be useful.

There's one final prerequisite — *always* required for effective political action: A monumental amount of time and personal tenacity. But, for this system, it's only needed by one or a very few organizers or coordinators.

NOT REQUIRED

No powerful boss or dictatorial director is needed.

No traditional political organization is needed.

No large or established operation is needed.

No fatcats or big political bankrolls are needed. In fact, no one needs to receive, have or control loot beyond pocket change — just enough to cover the cost of net-connections and the above-noted equipment and data-files and their use, as follows.

TUTORIAL FOR NEW USERS

Let's say the Awful Bill (e.g., the administration's anti-privacy/anti-crypto bill) has been introduced in Congress, is to be heard by the Committee on Stuff, and Rep. Gladhand is a key member of that committee — and you don't live in Gladhand's District. So how can you — as a mere peon citizen — impact Gladhand's vote or the committee's decision?

"Important" people have greatest sway over Gladhand's vote — especially hustlers inside the Washington Beltway.

Excluding them, individualized letters and faxes might help (though only one of Gladhand's minor staff will see 'em), phone calls are counted, and form letters and form postcards might be better than nothing. So write Gladhand a one-page personal letter and make sure it arrives no earlier than about a week before the hearing.

But a dribble of communications from outside of an elected official's district are often ignored. Some legislators even instruct their staff to discard anything that comes from well-beyond their district.

So what else can you do to participate in *your* governance?

CITIZEN-TO-CITIZEN ADVOCACY

Throughout history and including today's mass-market Herding Era, citizen-to-citizen personal advocacy has always been, by far, the most persuasive. Even between strangers. Therefore:

Get the names and addresses of as many voters in Gladhand's district as you are willing to contact by mail. Write to them as a concerned citizen, writing to a fellow citizen who "should" be concerned. Seek to escalate their concern to a level where they will contact *their* Representative, Gladhand — who *will* be attentive to those voters' comments. Limit the letter to one page, apparently *typed*, addressed to the individual voter — possibly enclosing several additional pages of supplementary information and references. *Don't* use fancy fonts and graphics.

Unlike semi-useless form-letters to Gladhand directly, letters to voters in Gladhand's turf can be fixed form, individualized only in their address and personal signature (with ink that is clearly different from the printer's black color).

Well-crafted letters to Gladhand's voters can prompt them to draft their own individualized letters to their representative. Even though most addressees won't actually contact their legislator, their awareness of the issue will be escalated — and that's infectious. Gladhand *will* hear about it.

MAGNIFYING YOUR IMPACT

How can you further seek to shape your governance? Urge others to do as you have done — everywhere; not just in Gladhand's district. The net's perfect for it.

Offer copies of your form letter(s), supplementary information, and letter-printing scripts for popular word-processors, by anonymous ftp [file transfer protocol]. Encourage others to customize everything to their own style, perspectives and concerns.

Use the nets to help coordinate this grassroots action: Obtain the full voter-reg list for Gladhand's district. Offer to provide any desired quantity of names and addresses of Gladhand's voters to those who are willing to similarly-send some quantity of letters. When providing names, do nth-name selection so as to spread the individual sender's letters widely across the District.

Note that volunteers always do what they want to do, rather than what you want them to do. Those who are cooperating in the action need to know what's actually being sent and when it's really arriving. Therefore, include at least one "seed"- name in each voter-list sent to a letter-emitting volunteer, fully disclosing what you are doing and why. This will require having at least one and preferably several cooperating addressees in the target District who can feed back what they receive from whom, when.

Almost all of this can and should be fully disclosed — the best kind of political action, an open grassroots effort.

PENETRATING COMMUNITIES

As you connect with supporters located in or near Gladhand's district, also offer them digital copies of handbills and door-stuffers that they can print on their own laserprinters and post on local bulletin boards or distribute to friends' and neighbors' message boxes (with the caution that stuffing U.S. Snail Service boxes is ill-eagle).

Newspaper surveys typically report that the Letters-to-the-Editor column is *the* most-widely read section of a newspaper! Suggest the topics, but not the wording, for "Letters to the Editor" to local newspapers, along with lists of their addresses and names of their Editorial-Page Editors. Even if the letters aren't printed, a floodlette of them can stampede media interest among herds of reporters and editors.

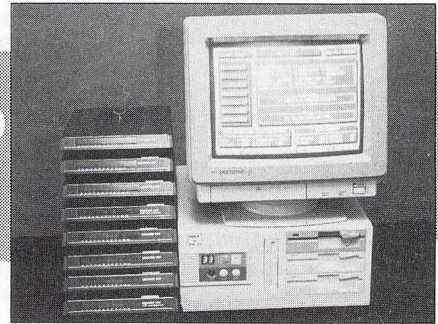
Do the same regarding radio talk-show hosts in Gladhand's turf.

If the issue is likely to be of interest to community organizations, offer the

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THE ANSWER IS YES!



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Why give up speed, power and flexibility just to run a multi-user BBS? Why pay high add-on prices for the kind of features you have a right to expect in a professional BBS program? Why pay thousands extra for software only a programmer can understand?

WILDCAT! IM easily handles up to eight high speed modem lines on a 486 PC using an intelligent Digiboard card, with no noticeable slowdown in performance. Add one or more eight-line workstations to your LAN, and you have a fully network-compatible multi-user BBS with local logins, *without* having to spend, spend, and spend again.

Yes, We Do Doors

With WILDCAT! IM, you're not tied to proprietary modules that cost a lot but might not fit *your* needs. You're not locked in to buying source code or special compilers and libraries if you want to use serious business applications instead of space monster games. And you're not stuck with kludges that require you to have additional PCs networked to your BBS, just to run doors and DOS applications.

That's because WILDCAT! IM lets you run off-the-shelf applications as ordinary menu selections. We even give you a customized version of DOORWAY — to add Digiboard compatible COM I/O routines to your favorite DOS applications.

Yes, We Do E-Mail

Whether you need local or wide-area messaging, whether you want shared public conference mail or point-to-point E-Mail, WILDCAT! IM can help you do it. Whether you need a simple QWK-compatible network, or our optional MHS and UUCP gateways, WILDCAT! IM helps you move the mail.

Yes, We Do LAN Sessions

You don't have to pay hundreds extra just for add-ons to let your LAN users log into the BBS. WILDCAT! IM was designed for LAN compatibility from the start. It's this simple: install WILDCAT! IM on any network drive. Then run WILDCAT! BBS from the DOS prompt at any workstation on the network. Full functionality, including file uploads and downloads across the LAN. Up to 250 simultaneous sessions in any combination of local LAN logins and modem connections. Why do it any other way?

Yes, We Do RIP

RIP (Remote Imaging Protocol) graphics come standard with WILDCAT! IM. Users can select menu commands with the mouse, and see graphics comparable to or better than those found on Prodigy or America Online. And we don't make your users give up their favorite professional communications software, either. RIP graphics are fully supported by QmodemPro.

Yes, We Do CD-ROM

Of all the new computer hardware developments of the last decade, none have had more impact on the BBS world than CD-ROM technology. CD-ROMs are a perfect way to add huge numbers of files to your BBS. Instead of making you use third-party doors or expensive add-on modules to support a CD-ROM, WILDCAT! IM treats it just like another hard drive, showing the CD-ROM files as part of your regular file download areas.

What are you waiting for?

Got a question? Call us toll free at

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION NOW ONLINE WITHOUT COST

Several of last year's columns concerned efforts to pass California's Assembly Bill 1624 (by Bowen, D-Torrance) to make all state legislative information — bills, amendments, agendas, votes, etc. — plus all state statutes and the baroque state Constitution available via the Internet, without any state charges. It's now law — Calif. Govt. Code 10248. Access is by "ftp" for those with access to the Internet's file-transfer protocol, and by "ftpmail" for anyone who can at least send and receive Internet email.

For details, send:

Email to: ftpmail@leginfo.public.ca.gov
Subject: <optional>
Message: connect leginfo.public.ca.gov
help
quit

For the two introductory and instructional files:

Email to: ftpmail@leginfo.public.ca.gov
Subject: <optional>
Message: connect leginfo.public.ca.gov
get README_WELCOME
cd pub
get README_FIRST
quit

You can ftp to leginfo.public.ca.gov and review about a dozen self-evident README files and several self-evident index files. Send comments to comments@leginfo.public.ca.gov. You might also check out sen.ca.gov by ftp or gopher. Some folks report that it is much more useful, though perhaps not quite as up-to-date. Other Internet sites are also running gophers, WAIS, WWW, etc., for accessing leginfo. Upper- and lower-case is important, and none of these commands or addresses end with periods!

For "Full" Internet Access No whining about the Legislature not providing every kind of access you can dream up, e.g. telnet, exotic indexers and search tools, etc. Their job is to support the Legislature; not to spend vast sums fulfilling each citizen's techno-whim. They are running a relatively low-cost system with minimal staff, providing the information for free, in a form they can generate easily, that almost everyone can use — ASCII. (Who will be the first to auto-convert it to 6-bit Baudot-code for the low-cost terminals popular among the hearing-impaired?)

For Internet Novices It's also not the Legislature's job to teach folks how to use the Internet — no more so than it is the Highway Department's job to teach people how to drive and where to find filling stations. Two of the best tutorials and handbooks for novices, about the Internet, are: *The Whole Internet: User's Guide and Catalog*, by Ed Krol, from O'Reilly & Associates, 800-998-9938, and *Zen and the Art of the Internet*, by Brendan Kehoe, from Prentice Hall.

Updates & What's Next Making legislation available online and without state fees was last year's project — done! This year, I'm pushing for timely, online access to political disclosures — state and local campaign-finances and officials' economic interests, plus state lobbyists disclosures. But such things move much too fast for a monthly magazine to do anything more than report history. To be informed in time to participate in the process — rather than just snarl about the results — add your Internet address to my online "GovAccess" distribution list, by request to jwarren@well.sf.ca.us (no period at the end).

same kinds of information organizations and their chair-creatures. Ditto for local business leaders if the issue impacts business.

Back to Congress, these same techniques can be equally applied to all the members of the Committee on Stuff — especially those who are leaning in the "wrong" direction. (Voters are much more- likely to complain about their rep's wrong-headedness, than to write letters supporting desired action.) And, by the time the issue comes to a floor vote, you will have built a potent net-based, computer-aided grassroots political-action volunteer-mob with which to flog 50%+ one of the legislative body.

Effective community action is never easy, but you no longer have to be handsome, wear a tie, walk a precinct, nor subvert yourself to the dictates of an established political organization in order to have a potent impact.

Make waves! Net-surf for Freedom!

JUST LIKE THE OL' DAYS

Neat, huh? This is akin to the last time a rag-tag minority of malcontents revolted against "established leaders and proper authority."

Patrick's descendants will again draft inflammatory rhetoric, provoking the disorganized but discontented colonists to act. Ben's descendants will again crank up their household printing presses, leafleting friends and strangers around the colonies. George's descendants will map their plans on digital foolscap and coordinate volunteer MinutePersons with electronic carrier-pigeons. And Paul's fleet-fingered descendants will again race around the bumpy electronic roads, disturbing the peace with shouted warnings about the royal efforts to resist the irresistible — *citizens*, once again voluntarily acting in concert to regain control of their own destinies.

Mount up, folks. We have a heritage to honor.

[Jim Warren, founder of InfoWorld, was the host of PBS' "Computer Chronicles", and Editor of Dr. Dobb's Journal and has chaired various computer organizations.

He began working as a programmer in 1968, holds three graduate degrees, and has taught computing at Stanford and other universities.]

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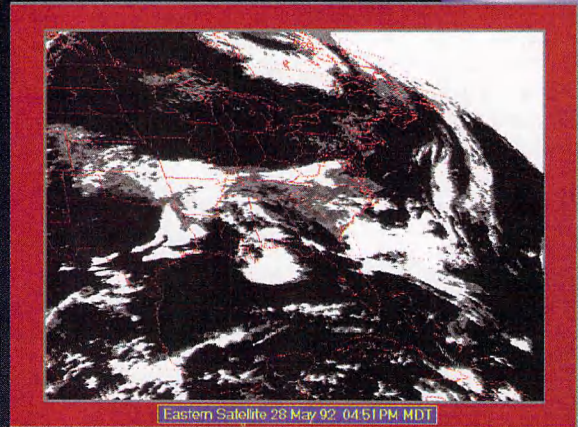
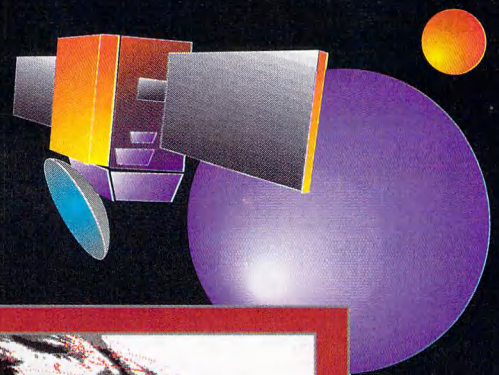
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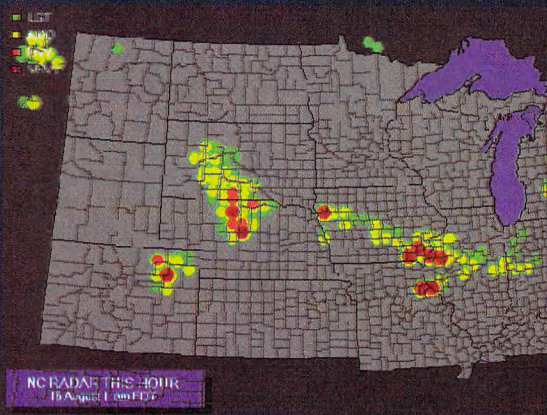
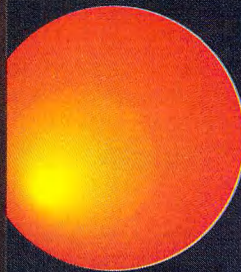
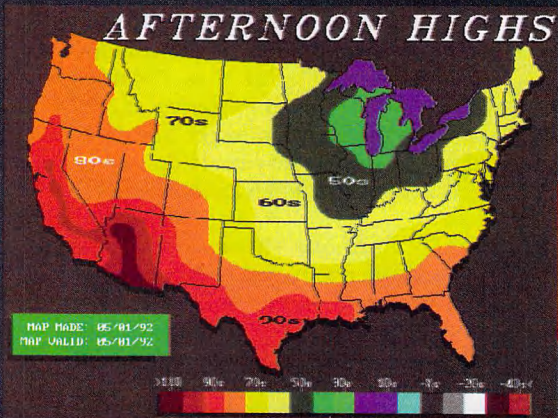
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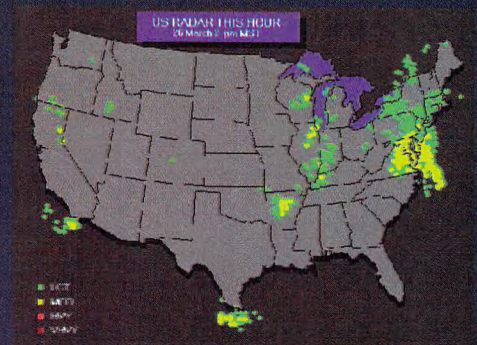
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1065 Cosby Highway, Newport, TN 37821



by Jack Rickard

ROUGH SEAS FOR COMPU SERVE AND WINNAV

The storm broke with a story by Brian Livingston in the March 7th issue of Infoworld. Soon the LA Times had picked it up and at least ten other publications were planning stories - all based on the David and Goliath tale of shareware software author Richard Patterson and the CompuServe online information service.

We do love David and Goliath stories. The lone high-tech entrepreneur cuts a striking figure. And the plodding corporations make a ready target. But baseball pitchers and concrete finishers get rain. BBS operators get power outages. Most lottery ticket owners lose. And some days, reality strikes even in the offices of magazine editors. Stuff happens.

The story starts with the December announcement by CompuServe of the release of their Windows Navigator for CompuServe, a title foreshortened to WinNAV and originally available for download using the command **GO WINNAV**. The program allows you to deal with mail offline after the fashion of TAPCIS and OZCIS and other popular programs used to access the service and minimize connect time. CompuServe apparently HAD done a trademark search on the name, but had failed to search their own file directories for any programs using that name.

As it turns out, Richard S. Patterson, Esq. of Houston had marketed a shareware program titled Windows Navigator for Microsoft Windows version 3.0 under the company name FlashPoint Developments. Available since 1988, this program has developed a following of some 200 registered users or thereabouts, and has nothing to do with online services. In fact, Patterson claims he hasn't made a change in the program in nearly two years and isn't real clear on how you would actually register it at this point. It is a replacement for the Windows program manager allowing you to move about through directories and move files around - assuming you live through the series of shrill beg screens and legal advisories that make it virtually unusable.

Patterson is a 43 year-old nominally unemployed lawyer in Houston with a wife, two adolescent children, and a shareware program. On December 20th, he notified CompuServe of the infringement of his commonlaw trademark on the term WinNAV and Windows Navigator.

Despite the lack of federal trademark registration on WinNav, it would appear that CompuServe immediately acknowledged they had erred and tried to remedy the situation. First, despite huge printing, advertising, and packaging expenses already incurred for their own product, they did without question immediately agree to stop using the name WinNAV, abandoned their own Federal Trademark Registration

application for the name and changed the name of their product to CompuServe Navigator for Windows. At Patterson's insistence, they delayed delivery of the program. And they offered several times to make Patterson "whole" even with a financial settlement. We understand from Patterson that at one point they offered him \$50,000 cash, he could keep the name, and keep the program. For his inconvenience with

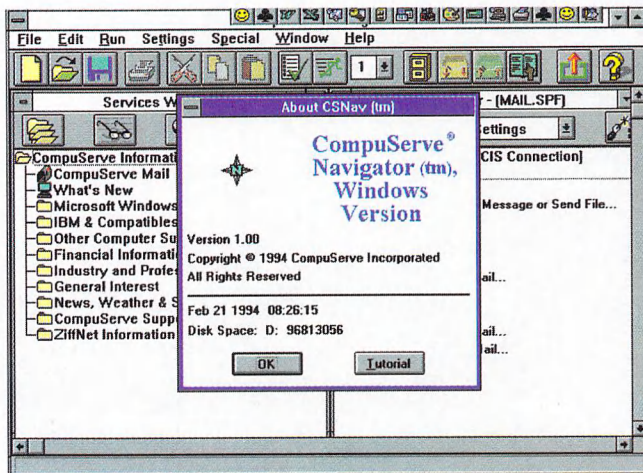
this program, that by his own admission had no more than 200 registered users after six years, he demanded a settlement of \$500,000.00 or lacking that, that CompuServe cease marketing the program under ANY name. It would appear that CompuServe even THEN upped their offer, and though everyone admits generally they did, no one will actually name the final figure.

Failing to receive his \$500,000 jackpot, Patterson insisted that even the NEW name CompuServe Navigator for Windows STILL infringed his trademark on the name Windows Navigator, and demanded that they stop marketing the program entirely - or cough the cash.

CompuServe claims they did everything they could to make this guy happy, and at one point Vice President Barry Berkov called Patterson directly and specifically tried to get him to tell him what would they could do to make him happy - to no particular success.

To clear up the matter, CompuServe filed suit themselves on January 31st in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio - Eastern Division. While Patterson was technically the defendant, the suit sought primarily declaratory relief to establish that the new name, CompuServe Navigator for Windows, was not an infringement on Patterson's commonlaw trademark Windows Navigator of WINNAV. It did also note their efforts to appease Patterson on the earlier use of WINNAV and asked the court to declare their unintentional use of the term initially did not constitute an infringement of commonlaw trademark. The suit did also include the usual hopeful prayer for attorney's fees, but sought no monetary damages of any kind. They were basically asking the court to declare that they could market their software under the new name without causing an infringement.

Patterson, enraged that his newly found lottery ticket might be in question, along with the establishment of legal venue in far away Ohio, went on an online rampage issuing dozens of public e-mail messages in the WinCIM forum, the EFF forum, the Association of Shareware Professionals forum, the Law forum, the Journalism forum, and to anyone that would listen painting CompuServe and all who worked there,



**CSNav - CompuServe Navigator
Windows Version**

as we broadly and generally understand it, as spawned from the loins of the second son of Satan, that they didn't wear clothes, and that they probably ate their children in a midnight candlelight ceremony.

At this point, Kevin J. Osterkamp, an attorney with Roetzel & Andress in Columbus sent Mr. Patterson a letter - probably not one of the keener moves at Roetzel & Andress, but a letter nonetheless. Rather than excerpting it, let's just look at all of it - as provided by Mr. Patterson in his very energetic efforts to get this all in the press:

"Dear Mr. Patterson:

On January 31, 1994, CompuServe commenced a declaratory judgment action in the Federal District Court for the Southern District of Ohio against you and FlashPoint Developments. The litigation seeks a judicial determination of the issues which have been the subject of various communications between you and CompuServe in recent weeks.

Given that CompuServe, FlashPoint and you are now parties to a Federal Court proceeding, I am as legal counsel for CompuServe compelled to advise you that its CompuServe's position that you will be terminated if you mention, discuss or comment upon the lawsuit or the issues related thereto as a part of the CompuServe Information Service. Termination will also result from any other disparagement of CompuServe, its management, employees or business practices.

I trust we both agree that the dispute between the parties can and should be resolved in a court of law and not another forum.

*Very truly yours,
Roetzel & Andress
Kevin J. Osterkamp"*

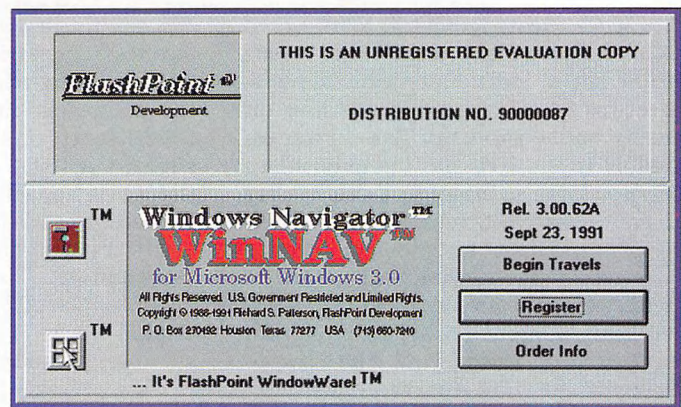
This touched off the press attack en masse charging that CompuServe was censoring or suppressing any traffic on their system critical of CompuServe. The Infoworld article charged CompuServe with threatening the free exchange of ideas and the Los Angeles Times actually went so far as to headline "CompuServe Sues Subscriber Over On-Line Remarks Against Company." Since this headline didn't even match their own story much less the facts, we'll leave it to you where THAT came from.

The near hysteria was further fueled by CompuServe itself, ever ready with the wrong answer to the wrong question, hastily but at least arrogantly delivered. Barrister Osterkamp was quoted as saying it was just "good old-fashioned common sense...After all, why should CompuServe - or any on-line service - allow a disgruntled party the opportunity to bad mouth the company in its own forum?" And to further muddy the waters, CIS Vice President Barry Berkov chimed in at virtually every opportunity that "there are no particular First Amendment rights to being a member of an information service" - doubly mystifying as no one in even the most gruesomely distorted reports had implied there were.

At this point, Patterson has not been terminated, claims he doesn't believe he will be now that he has the press in a frenzy, and continues to beleaguer everyone he can find on the service with his tale of David and Goliath. The case in court remains unresolved, and CompuServe is under siege for threatening the free expression of ideas on the service. Some are actually hoping this issue will force the freedom of speech issue on online services generally. Quite an imbroglio for a days work.

There are probably two issues here. The first involving trademark infringement and the second with the issue of content control on online services.

With regards to the trademark issue, the way we see it, Mr. Patterson's boat came in quite accidentally. It was his trademark, commonlaw or no and he did undoubtedly the right to it. CompuServe made a mistake. He knew it. They knew it. And we're frankly amazed at the lengths they went to to try to make this oily little opportunistic Houston lawyer happy and whole again. If a shareware program with less than 200 registered users after six years (try this program, it will all become clear) is worth a half million dollars, we'd like to order at least three of them for the lobby display.



WinNAV - Windows Navigator by FlashPoint Developments

The second issue has to do with content control. This thorny issue keeps coming up in the online world, and likely will for some time. The rage in this particular case, and indeed in a number of similar cases stems not from a question so much of whether CompuServe should be able to manage the content of their service, but whether there is a conflict of interest, an impropriety, when dealing with content negative about THEMSELVES. It isn't that it is legal or illegal, it can be made to seem UNFAIR and users want to cry foul - the big guy beating up the little guy. Osterkamp's and Berkov's statements did nothing to allay this spectre of the omnipotent online service taking advantage of their position and applying a different standard to conversations about themselves.

But clumsy PR aside, it just isn't happening in this case. CIS VP Barry Berkov insists that they don't generally go hyper over comments critical to CompuServe in the new user and practice areas they do control, and they don't examine any private mail except by request. They do ban direct solicitations for other online services on their service, blatant profanity, and commercial advertising.

A quick look online bears him out. If they ban derogatory comments about CompuServe generally on their service, what are all of them doing on there? In many forums, the current case is quite in question - indeed, Patterson himself is still active, and other debates over management issues appear to be ongoing. And in fact, while they may ban direct solicitations to move to other services, we found numerous conversations going on apparently unhampered noting better AOL access to the Internet, for example.

More encouragingly, the "rules" of what's allowed and what is not seems to be left to individual forum administrators to a larger degree than on many online services. Berkov was alluding to the fact that the only things CompuServe management thinks they have to deal with routinely is the new user practice areas and e-mail - the entire rest of the service varies from forum to forum and apparently an increasing amount of latitude for control is ceded to the guys who have to answer the mail and take the daily heat - the forum administrators. Indeed, IBMBBS allows pretty free discussion of commercial products related to bulletin boards - despite the general ban on this. It's just a different venue than some of the other forums.

So the spectre of online censorship seems in reality to be limited to Richard Patterson. Sorry guys. One clown with a keyboard shouldn't have the "freedom" to hose up a half dozen forums because he didn't get his pay-day. And we just can't go to bat for someone who's so obviously trying to pants a service for a half million bucks after they've jumped through their own pant legs to fix him. And frankly, even the offer of \$50,000 smells more like "shakedown" than "justice" in this case.

We still do like the David and Goliath stories. Most of the time. But we're just going to have to let the rest of the press scoop us on this one. Pass.

COMPUERVE EXPANDS INTERNET CONNECTION

Last issue we alluded to the telnet connection for CompuServe. During the second week of March, CompuServe Information Service officially announced plans to dramatically expand access to the Internet for their subscribers. Most imminent is availability of telnet access to **COMPUERVE.COM** from anywhere on the Internet. CompuServe members will be able to use the telnet protocol to logon to the system, and still use their WinCIM interface to do so.

According to CompuServe, pricing for telnet access will be the same as for dialup service - \$8.95 per month for the basic package plus \$4.80 per hour at 2400 bps and \$9.60 per hour at 14,400 bps. This is a little non-intuitive since Internauts typically have no control or even indication of what

"speed" they're connected at. Indeed, performance varies widely depending on how many packet sessions are active at any one time on any one pipe on the Internet. CompuServe spokesmen seemed a little fuzzy on this too, though it appears there will be some sort of logon selection you make to indicate the theoretical "speed" at which you connect. The objective is apparently to "throttle" the connection to CompuServe via price in order to ensure performance.

The company had been experimenting with telnet access via the earlier hermes.merit.edu link for some time. But this will mark the first time you can connect directly to **compuserve.com**.

Through the rest of 1994, CompuServe plans other enhancements, including USENET Newsgroups, remote log-in to other Internet hosts, and ftp file transfer. Rates for these services have yet to be determined.

According to CompuServe vice president of business information and electronic communications, "There are many support and ease-of-use challenges associated with implementing an effective Internet access strategy. We have made significant advances in these areas, and feel that our plans reflect the needs and interests of our wide variety of members."

CompuServe has also established an Internet forum for members to share ideas about how to access and make use of Internet resources - **GO INETFORUM**. This forum is moderated by Marilyn DePaoli, Scott Loftness, Mike King, and Steve Wegert and should carry news and discussion of the enhanced Internet access features as they become available.


The expansion of Internet access is seen as a response to the very favorable reaction the Delphi service has experienced in providing more advanced Internet connections to its members.

COMPUERVE WIRELESS ACCESS

In recent months, CompuServe has quietly made available a product termed the Host Micro Interface, allowing software developers to build products that interface to the CompuServe Online Information Service.

One of the first products to emerge is a connection to CompuServe for users of Motorola's Envoy personal wireless communicator. This communicator uses a software operating system titled Magic Cap developed by General Magic, and the new connection program is titled Magic Genie, curiously enough. Developed by River Run Software, the new connection software allows Envoy users to both send and receive electronic mail, and retrieve stock quotes, weather data, and so forth throughout the day - wireless. For more information, contact Dr. Trilok Manocha, president, River Run Software at (201)861-0090.

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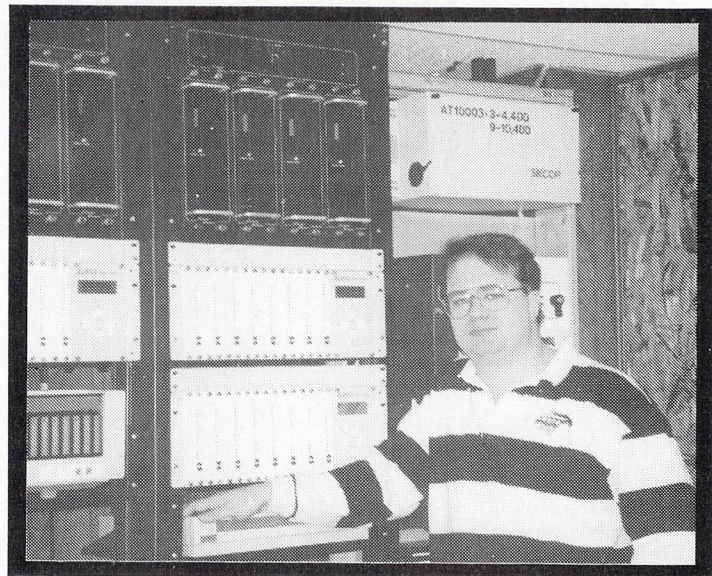
Cheetah was specifically designed for BBSs. The software keeps track of users' time left on the BBS, mode settings, modem status and even allows users to download their search results using any compression software they choose.



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Cheetah is available in both serial port and Digiboard versions and works out of the box on Novell Networks. Cheetah comes with an unlimited user license per BBS.

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Mark Burnett at APDI's BBS center.

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TUNNELS THROUGH GOPHERSPACE: EXPLORING THE WORLD FROM DELPHI

by Walt Howe

For the past year and a half, DELPHI has been launching thousands of new users into cyberspace via their Internet connection. For newcomers to the Internet, the ability to connect to thousands of computer networks and tens of millions of people around the world can be overwhelming. The sheer size and complexity of the net can overwhelm the newcomer. There is something for every possible interest, but how does the newcomer find the way and make the connections?

DELPHI's answer to this question has been to develop a unique version of gopher menu software which makes it easier to find interesting and useful things in the nets without having to become an expert first. The expertise can follow later for those who want to learn more.

Fifteen years ago, just to pick a date, the Internet was small in size, and it didn't take a lot of exploring to find what you wanted on the nets—IF you were an expert in speaking to computers in unix and other helpful languages. You started from a % or perhaps a \$ prompt, and the rest was up to you. Menus to help you? No! No "real man or woman" needed a menu!

But the doors were opening. Up to this point, the only people using the Internet spoke unix better than English or were scientists and researchers dedicated enough to learn it anyway. At the universities, the sociologists and the economists and the political scientists (the soft scientists) were catching on, too, and wondering if this network of networks had something for them. Their fields had already forced them to learn a lot about computers. And a few university librarians, who had already struggled through the process of automating their catalogs, began to notice all these uncataloged resources in electronic form just begging for someone to organize them. In a few places, librarians even began to speak to their computer department.

Meanwhile, in the early 80's the microcomputer revolution was picking up speed, and computers became something that ordinary people used, too. Modems were now finding their way into offices and homes. DELPHI was born in Cambridge, MA. The forces were well under way that would transform the Internet.

Now let's jump 12 years. It is early 1991. DELPHI is still a small friendly service based in Cambridge, Massachusetts with no hints of the Internet connections to come.

But the Internet has grown enormously and is doubling in size every 10 months or so. Even the unix experts are having trouble keeping up with all that is available, so some new tools start to appear. Enter Archie! (short for archiver, and no relation to a comic strip, insists its inventors Peter Deutsch and Alan Emtage). This wonderful new tool will find software and files from hundreds of different FTP sites—sites from which you can transfer files across the Internet using FTP (File Transfer Protocol).

Also at this time, a team of computer experts, administrators, and faculty at the University of Minnesota have been assigned to develop a menu system for the University that will give them easy access to all their files and records. The expectation is that it will be run on one big centralized mainframe. The programming team members are believers in distributed computing on small computers, however, and they propose a model where different servers will hold the information, but the computing effort will be shared by many client computers who will query the appropriate server for what they want, retrieve the information, and log off. With the computational effort distributed and connection times held to a minimum, the job can be done more economically by much smaller computers. This idea was not approved

initially by the project leaders, but not to be deterred, the programming team went ahead and developed the code anyway for a distributed server/client system. They offered it as an interim measure, while the "real" system was developed. Thus was born the first gopher system, named for the U. of Minnesota's Golden Gopher mascot, and the obvious ability of the system to "go fer" information.

Today, the Mother of All Gophers at Minnesota is only three years old, but there are over 5000 offspring burrowing around the world.

After offering an email connection for about 3 months, DELPHI added its full Internet connection in late 1992. At the start, DELPHI offered FTP, telnet, and email. For more features, members could use telnet's remote login capability to connect to the U. of Minnesota for gopher services, to telnet to Carnegie Mellon for IRC (Internet Relay Chat) and to places like NYX or UNC for newsgroups. But telnet is a full time connection, and telnetting to log onto a gopher defeats the whole purpose of the gopher's logon-grab-logoff model. As DELPHI's numbers grew, it was not fair for a commercial company to load down a university's computer resources. So, DELPHI developed their own gopher, added newsgroups and IRC, and continued to look for ways to contribute as well as take from the Internet.

Today, the gopher is the easiest way for newcomers to find their way around the nets. The gopher automates FTP and telnet, and supple-

Internet SIG gopher's main menu

1	PERSONAL FAVORITES	Menu
2	"ABOUT DELPHI'S GOPHER SERVICE"	Text
3	FAQ: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	Menu
4	ALL THE GOPHER SERVERS IN THE WORLD	Menu
5	ARTS, LITERATURE, AND RELIGION	Menu
6	BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS	Menu
7	COMPUTERS	Menu
8	FREE-NETS AND COMMUNITY ACCESS	Menu
9	FTP: DOWNLOADABLE PROGRAMS, IMAGES, SOUNDS	Menu
10	GAMES AND MUDDS, MUSHES, MUSES, AND MOOS	Menu
11	GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS	Menu
12	HEALTH AND MEDICINE	Menu
13	INTERNET SEARCH UTILITIES and INFORMATION	Menu
14	LAW	Menu
15	LIBRARIES, GUIDES, AND RESEARCH	Menu
16	SCHOOLHOUSE (K-12)	Menu
17	SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	Menu
18	SOCIAL SCIENCES, HISTORY, AND EDUCATION	Menu
19	THE GRAB BAG (WITH 'NEW THIS WEEK')	Menu

mented by various search utilities, makes it easy to find things on the Internet. DELPHI now has a number of different gophers. There are specialized gophers in various Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and the main gopher resides in the Internet SIG.

Each item on the menu except for the second one, which is a text file explaining some basic information about the gopher, leads to another menu. The following menus in turn point to submenus or files or search utilities or library catalogs or even multiplayer games. Some of these menus point to resources inside DELPHI; others point to resources on six (sometimes seven) continents.

The Personal Favorites menu at the top is a menu of "bookmarks" that each user builds for himself or herself. When a user starts exploring, one menu item can lead to another, lead to another and so on. When you are six menu levels deep and discover a place you want to visit again, you don't have to remember how to find your way back through the menus. You just type SAVE and it is automatically added to the Personal Favorites menu. The next time you want to visit that menu item, you just go there directly from the Personal Favorites menu.

The third menu item is a frequent stop for new members. The Internet has many Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) files. They are a great source of information about many different topics. This FAQ is, of course, about using DELPHI's Internet Services.

The menu continues to a second page (not shown). Any question that gets asked repeatedly is likely to find its way into this section of the gopher.

The fourth item on the main menu (ALL THE GOPHER SERVERS IN THE WORLD) is for explorers.

The first item lets you type in a gopher address and connect to it. If you're not sure of the address, item 2 will let you type in a partial address or a name and it will show you all the gophers that match what you typed. Then you can select any of the matches to make the connection.

The third item shows you all the other specialized gophers in DELPHI.

Each of these gophers, which are also reachable from their own SIG, points to resources all around the world and within DELPHI that support the SIG. For example, the Music City Gopher points to music files and texts from all over the world; the theology gopher points to files concerning religion and philosophy from everywhere. The Languages and Culture gopher puts you in touch with materials in many languages, even Klingon. The WIDnet (World Institute on Disability network) gopher features information and services for its members, who are blind or disabled.

The next section of ALL THE GOPHER SERVERS IN THE WORLD menu points to selected special interest gophers, such as the Library of Congress MARVEL gopher and others selected for their uniqueness and quality.

FAQ: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS		
Page 1 of 2		
1	The Complete FAQ	Text
2	DELPHI Command Summary	Menu
3	I'm new! How do I get started?	Text
4	How do I use FTP?	Text
5	How do I use TELNET?	Text
6	How do I send Internet mail?	Text
7	How does someone send me mail through the Internet?	Text
8	How do I send mail to CompuServe, Prodigy, AOL, MCIMAIL, etc.	Text
9	How do I send mail to a FIDONET address?	Text
10	How do I avoid workspace storage costs?	Text
11	What is a listserv? How do I subscribe?	Text
12	How do I read newsgroups?	Text
13	How do I use archie to search for software or files?	Text
14	What is a gopher? How do I use it?	Text
15	I'm having trouble with menus and displays. What do I do?	Text
16	What is WAIS? How do I use it to search for things?	Text
17	What is WWW? How do I use it?	Text
18	What is IRC? How do I use it?	Text

ALL THE GOPHER SERVERS IN THE WORLD

Page 1 of 2

1	Connect to any gopher (Type a gopher address)	Search
2	Search for Gophers by Name or Internet Address	Search
3	DELPHI Gophers	Menu
4	****SELECTED SPECIAL INTEREST GOPHERS****	Text
5	Carnegie Mellon U English Server	Menu
6	Gopher Jewels	Menu
7	Library of Congress MARVEL Gopher	Menu
8	RiceInfo, Rice U	Menu
9	University of North Carolina (SunSite)	Menu
10	U of Minnesota (the mother of all gophers)	Menu
11	Washington & Lee U	Menu
12	WHAT'S NEW?: New Gophers List (updated daily)	Menu
13	****GOPHERS BY GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION****	Text
14	USA Gophers	Menu
15	United Nations Gopher	Menu
16	International Organizations	Menu
17	Africa	Menu
18	Asia	Menu
19	Europe	Menu

ceed through the menus to connect to a gopher in Australia or Japan or Israel or whatever part of the world interests you.

Returning to the main menu, many of the remaining items are topically oriented. If you want to see how the government is getting increasingly connected to the Internet, visit the GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS menu. If you want to explore sources of business information, select the BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS menu. The advantage of these menus is that it will point you to resources that many other people have ferreted out for you.

The LIBRARIES, GUIDES, AND RESEARCH menu will help you connect to Library resources. You can search the catalogs of thousands of libraries by starting with this menu.

The SCHOOLHOUSE K-12 menu is an incredible resource for students and teachers alike. There are interesting projects to draw on from classrooms of many nations.

The FREE-NETS AND COMMUNITY ACCESS menu puts you in touch with many communities which are working to provide public access.

The INTERNET SEARCH UTILITIES AND INFORMATION splits into two areas. One is designed to retrieve information on the Internet, such as documentation, standards, and contacts in other countries. The other provides a set of search utilities which will help you dig out information on topics of your choosing, find files, or find an old friend's Internet address in a few ingenious ways. You will find

The final section of this menu, which continues to a second screen, points to geographic locations. If you select the USA, the next menu gives you a state by state choice. If you select Europe, the next menu lets you choose by European country. It only takes a few seconds to pro-

DELPHI Gophers

1	Apple][User's Group Gopher	Menu
2	Business Forum	Menu
3	Commodore Gopher	Menu
4	Graphics Support Gopher	Menu
5	Hobby Shop Gopher	Menu
6	Languages and Culture Gopher	Menu
7	Macintosh ICONtact Gopher	Menu
8	Music city Gopher	Menu
9	PC Compatibles Gopher	Menu
10	Seasonal and Weather Gopher	Menu
11	Sports Connection Gopher	Menu
12	Spotlight (TV/Movies) Gopher	Menu
13	Theology Gopher	Menu
14	TI Gopher	Menu
15	WIDnet Gopher	Menu
16	World of Video Games	Menu

Archie here (no relation to the comic strip, remember), who has been joined by Veronica and Jughead, too.

FTP: DOWNLOADABLE PROGRAMS, IMAGES, AND SOUNDS. This section points to some of the largest collections of software on the planet. Or if you want the latest pictures taken in space, or large collections of sound files, the pointers are here, too. From the gopher, you can download files directly to your own computer.

GAMES AND MUDS, MUSHES, MUSES, AND MOOS. Multiplayer games of all sorts are very popular on the nets, and range from chess to world building. Some of the role playing activities feature magic and monsters; others feature social interaction and educational features. The menu for this section is six screens long and runs from the ABACUS Nuclear War MUD to the Zen MOO.

THE GRAB BAG menu includes everything that does not categorize neatly into other menus. It also holds a "What's New" section that highlights new resources and new discoveries every week. Here is the first page of **THE GRAB BAG** for March 10, 1994. Note item number 18.

Although the menus are enormous in size as

you proceed through different levels and branch out to gophers everywhere, the structures on DELPHI are not there to show you quantity. The emphasis is on quality, and the top few levels point directly to carefully chosen resources—among the best of the burrow. Below the top levels, however, are many more treasures waiting to be found. For more information on DELPHI and gophers, send email to walthowe@delphi.com

THE GRAB BAG (WITH 'NEW THIS WEEK 3/10')

Page 1 of 8

1	=====NEW THIS WEEK=====	Text
2	(UPDATED 3/10/94)	Text
3	Clementine satellite images	Menu
4	Clementine images (alternate)	Menu
5	Doctor Fun: The first daily cartoon of the Internet	Menu
6	Net Trainers Resources	Menu
7	U.S. House of Representatives Gopher	Menu
8	U.S. Senate Gopher [gopher.senate.gov]	Menu
9	Windows and TCP/IP for Internet Access	Text
10	WHAT'S NEW? New gophers list (updated daily)	Menu
11	WHAT'S NEW? New Telnet Sites	Menu
12	=====THE GRAB BAG=====	Text
13	Almost 2001: an NBC series on the communications revolution	Menu
14	AMI — A Friendly Public Interface	Menu
15	Aviation Gopher	Menu
16	Bagpipe Archives	Menu
17	Billboard Charts/U.S. Top Pop Singles	Text
18	Boardwatch Magazine Online Info Service	Telnet
19	Book Of Metal	Menu

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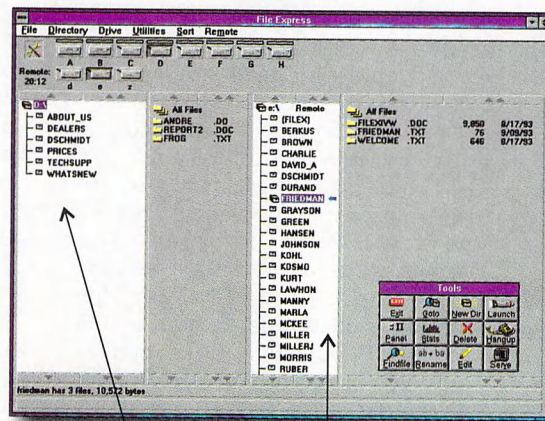


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AOL TENNANT

by Dave Tennant



If I am ever asked, I say that America Online may be one of the best deals around for commercial online services. At least, that is what I have been saying for the last few years to anyone who will listen. I have used AOL on my Mac and on my PC, using it under DOS, Geoworks, and now Windows. But lately, I've been a little hesitant to recommend AOL because I haven't been able to connect up myself! It gets a little frustrating when you make calls at all hours of the day and night and can't through. I can just imagine how little patience I would have if I were a new user and had been encouraged to try this great new (not really that new) service.

What's happening? Well, I, as well as many others are having to suffer through the growing pains of this increasingly popular online service. During the months of November through February, connecting to the service may have required several re-dial attempts. There were a few times when I and others I know could not get connected for a day or two. During the past three weeks though, I have been able to dial in and connect on the first attempt. Last night, as an experiment, I tried dialing access numbers in New York, Atlanta, Cincinnati, Dallas, Los Angeles, and Seattle, and I got a connection on the first try each time.

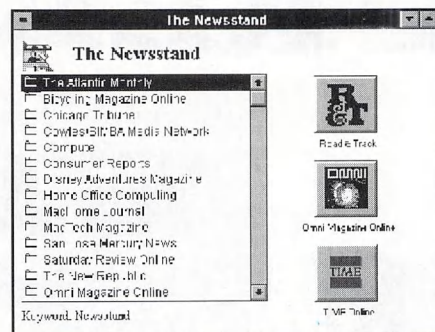
America Online's CEO Steve Case is aware of the difficulties they're facing and he took the unprecedented step of posting a two page "signed" letter to all users at the Welcome Screen explaining that AOL's growth has tem-

porarily overburdened the system. In his letter, Case not only apologized, he extended the AOL policy that "the customer is always right" and included a service credit for users having current system problems. AOL spokesperson Pam McGraw recently stated that system problems will begin to be resolved in the next few weeks and ending in 90 days. My message is; be patient. When you finally connect, you'll be able to take advantage of one of the best online services available today.

And why may it be the best you might ask? Several reasons: ease of use, plentiful features, accessibility (growing pains notwithstanding), and price.

For a flat fee of **\$9.95** per month for five hours (plus **\$3.50** for any additional hours) you can have access to all the service has to offer. From the Welcome Screen to the "point and shoot ability" of all the platforms available, AOL is consistently easy to use. Whether one is using the Macintosh, an IBM (or clone) with Windows or DOS, the "point and click" availability of all the services make AOL easy to explore and discover. Every time I log on, buttons display articles, features on anything under the sun, opportunities to shop through catalogs, make airline reservations through Eaasy Sabre, or go into conference areas where I can meet people who have similar interests. I can look at the latest news and recent breakthroughs in technology, be introduced to a new interest group online, (like bicycling), peruse online magazines such as Atlantic Monthly, The New Republic, Compute, Time Magazine, OMNI, National Geographic, PC World, PC Today, MacHome Journal, Windows Magazine, Pro Bike News, QST Magazine, Consumer Reports, and truly, much more. (Magazines coming soon to AOL include Car and Drive, Boating, Popular Photography, Road and Track, Stereo Review, and Women's Day, to name just a few.)

I can read the news from online newsdailies such as the Chicago Tribune, The Newspaper Association of America, The New York Times, the San Jose Mercury News, the Tribune Company, USA Today, and Knight-Ridder. (America Online recently formed an alliance with Reuters New Media Inc., a leading provider of news,

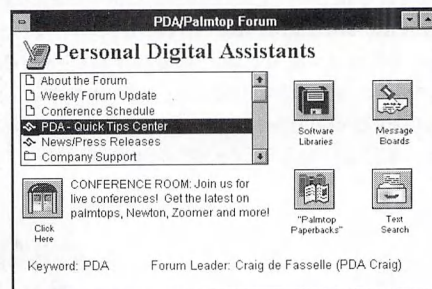


business, and financial information to consumer and corporate markets.)

Occasionally I have typical user problems with my software or hardware (not related to AOL), but finding a conference for help on AOL is easy. For example, I've recently been intrigued by the new PDA's coming on the market, and particularly with the Casio and Tandy "Zoomer" using the Geos interface. If I have questions about hardware or software or trends, I can log into a conference and get questions answered in real time, or post questions which may be answered later. (AOL doesn't have as many support conferences as competing services such as CompuServe, but at the rate they are growing that should change.)

Logging into the new PDA conference was simple. I just typed ^K (for Keyword) and then "PDA." I was able to find the latest tips on using the Zoomer and also download two PDA books, *The 1993 CIA Book of Facts*, and *Tragedy of Puddin' Head Wilson* by Mark Twain. The download manager told me it was going to take more than an hour to download these files at 2400 baud. That's a lot of connect time, so I decided to call a 9600 baud line and do the download from there to save both time and money.

AOL has local access numbers for 2400 baud service in virtually every city in the US. Their 9600 baud coverage is also pretty good, especially for



Upload	Subject	Count	Download
6/20/95	2M Form Factor Demo	38	0.312
6/30/91	2M Graphics Library	73	0.316
6/2/95	2M Travel Database 800 Numbers	67	0.316
6/2/95	2M Zoomer ZoomerPC Comm Pack	92	0.313
6/2/95	2M Mobile Tech Review #1 for Z	45	0.313
6/2/95	2M New York State Zip Codes	16	0.316
6/2/95	2M Zoomer Flowchart Shapes	62	0.315
6/2/95	2M Zoomer Error Codes	42	0.317
6/2/95	2M Sample Zoomer documents	66	0.313
6/1/95	2M Zoomer Tip/Tricks Notebook	159	0.317
6/1/95	2M Frequently Asked Questions	94	0.316

major cities. There is no surcharge for using one of the 9600 baud numbers; so you can save connect time and phone charges by dialing in on a 9600 baud line. The reason I sometimes use a 2400 line is simple; the 9600 lines are more popular and there are fewer of them. (In the US AOL uses the Sprint-Net and Tymenet networks, which also appear to be overloaded during peak usage hours. AOL's capacity problem has apparently spilled over to the packing switching networks.) Therefore my chances of getting through are better on a 2400 line than on a 9600 line. AOL currently has 74% of the country covered and according to a company spokesperson, they are covering more each day. (To get 9600 service you must run AOL software for Windows version 1.1 and for DOS users version 1.5a, but all versions of the software are free. So if you don't currently have the latest version of the AOL software, call AOL's toll free number **(800) 827-6364**, and they'll send it to you FREE.)

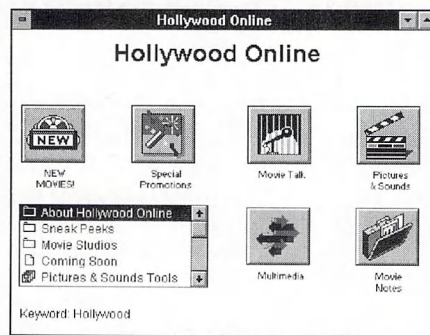
Unfortunately, AOL's does not currently support 14.4 kbps or v.FAST (28 Kbps) connections. So far, CompuServe is the only service offering 14.4 kbps service and none of the commercial online information services currently support v.FAST. (CompuServe has surcharges for its 9600 bps and 14.4 kbps service). AOL better get 14.4 kbps support in place soon. These modems are not only much faster, they have really come down in price and are selling briskly. The new, even faster, v.FAST modems are also starting to get into the channel. Although they will eventually supplant 14.4 kbps modems, it may be a while before v.FAST nodes are available.

Once connected to AOL a feature I often use is instant messaging. If I am in a conference and want to talk with just one person, I can send them an instant message and get an instant response. This allows for privacy and the ability to "talk" with a few people at the same time. There are several forms of "chatting" on AOL including Center Stage, which accommodates up to 300 people at one time. Conference rooms, a smaller cyber meeting space,

can accommodate up to 48 people, and chat rooms can accommodate up to 23 people.

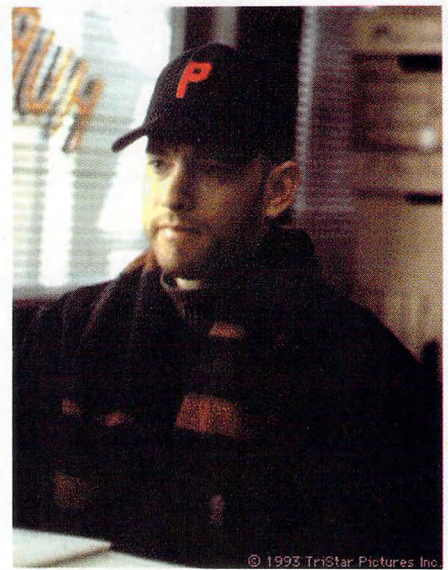
There are also Private Meeting rooms that can be set up through the People Connection that can accommodate up to 23 people as well. I recently set up a private meeting room with friends ranging from Peterborough, New Hampshire, Westminster, California, and Bodega Bay up north of San Francisco. All one has to do is visit People Connection and follow the prompts. No one else may join this meeting unless you or others invite them.

If I have a criticism though, it is that while AOL has a good looking interface, it lacks any pictures. For instance, when I am reading TIME Magazine or Consumer Reports, I would like to also see the accompanying pictures. Unlike Prodigy, AOL has no fa-



cility for this. There are however, an amazing amount of graphics for downloading. For instance, I recently visited Hollywood Online and read some of the reviews for movies such as "Adams Family Values," "Philadelphia," and "Look Who's Talking II." What really impressed me was that I could download any number of graphics (Gifs, Tifs, and the like) from the actual movies.

Just as an experiment I downloaded a picture of Tom Hanks from



the movie "Philadelphia," and a picture of Kirstie Alley from "Look Who's Talking II." Bring them into a Gif viewer and there they are - big as life.

Some online services are text-based, some are graphical based. I prefer a graphical based service. Delphi and GENIE are text based. GENIE, and CompuServe give you a choice between a text based interface and an optional graphical interface. Prodigy and America Online however, REQUIRE you to use their graphical front-end software. Fortunately, there are Mac, Windows and DOS versions for Prodigy and America Online. If you have ever had trouble getting Windows to load on your PC it can be a big help to have a DOS version to fall back on. For a user like myself who uses a Macintosh and a PC, it's also a plus to have support for both platforms.

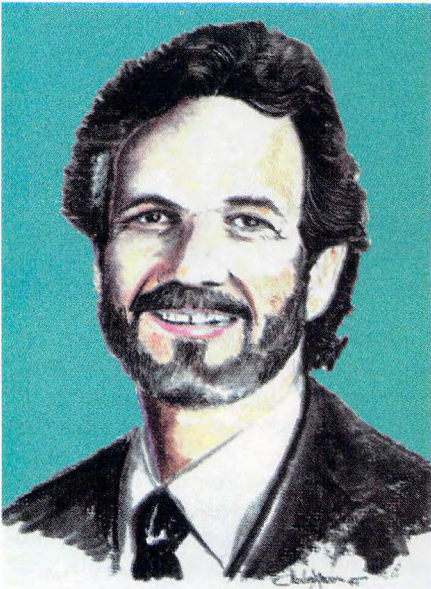
AOL's phenomenal growth has been a boom for the company and a little bit of a pain for true users. The pay off though is an extensive (and continually growing) array of services and products. AOL can be reached at: 8619 Westwood Center Drive, Vienna, VA 22182, Voice **(800) 827-6364** or **(703) 448-8700**, Fax **(703) 883-1509**.

[Dave Tennant is an Economics and English Instructor in Southern California. He can be reached on America Online at "Dtennan" or on the Internet at dtennan@eis.calstate.edu]

PROWLING PRODIGY

PRODIGY MEMBERS GIVE NORWEGIAN CHILL TO CBS OLYMPICS CREW

by Ric Manning



When CBS asked Prodigy members what they thought about the network's coverage of the Winter Olympics, the Prodigy folks let them have it with both barrels.

During the Olympics, Prodigy gave CBS a special bulletin board area. Prodigy promoted it on its welcome screens and CBS commentator Pat O'Brien invited viewers of his late-night Olympic wrap-up show to send electronic mail.

Here's a sample of the titles viewers put on some of their letters:

CBS HATER
CBS BLOWING IT
CBS COVERAGE STINKS
BOZO RUNS CBS

So welcome, Pat, to the brave new world of electronic audience participation.

Based on the volume of mail CBS received, the network would probably call the experiment a success. The BBS drew more than 3,000 letters by second day of the Olympics. And midway through the second week of the games, users had opened debate under 167 different subject headings.

"There is now more Prodigy mail than moose here in Norway," joked George Schweitzer, CBS senior vice president for marketing and communications in one of his responses to the surly masses.

Schweitzer has been a big booster of tapping into online services. "To me, this is the closest we come to our viewers," he told New York's *Newsday*.

And Schweitzer promised in his e-mail that the CBS honchos and commentators who posted their addresses, including O'Brien and luge announcer Sean McDonough, read all the notes.

But it would be hard to imagine that the opinions they read warmed their hearts on cold Norwegian nights.

"Hey we want the GAMES. NOT your perspective, NOT your features, Not your profiles, NOT your talking heads," said one contributor.

Others complained the Tanya Harding-Nancy Kerrigan story got too much attention and that CBS took the drama out of the contests by telling viewers the winners before showing the contests.

And some Prodigy subscribers, noting the modest number of replies from the CBS folks, suggested that the bulletin board was a sneaky plot by Prodigy to sell more time in its Plus area.

Schweitzer did post one long note which seemed to state the obvious. CBS saves the good stuff until late in the evening because that's when it has the biggest audience, he said. And all those commercials, he added, pay the bills.

O'Brien kissed off many of the letters to him with brief replies that

said something like "Thanks for the note. Keep watching."

McDonough, however, seemed to make a real effort to be truly interactive. He explained that CBS had set up its Prodigy computer in the network's press office where any CBS staffer could read the postings and answer questions.

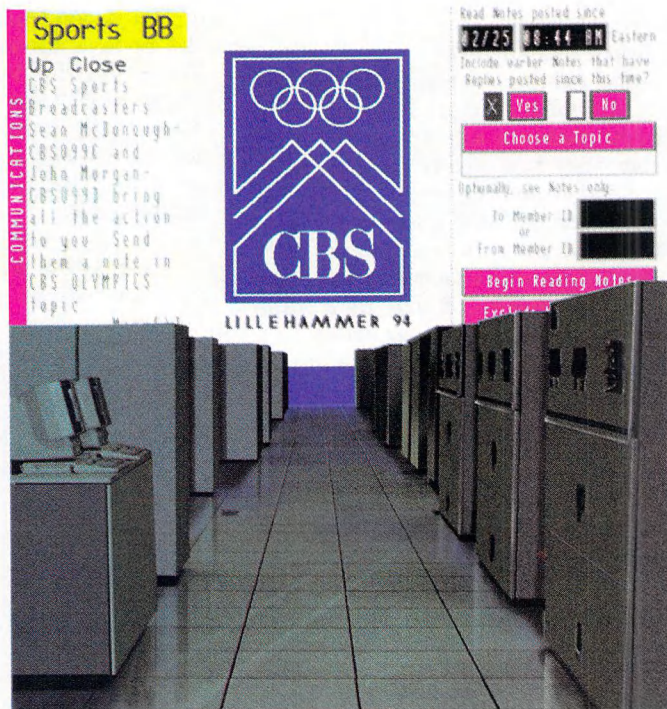
"We don't get a chance to see much of the coverage so it is enlightening to read the viewer feedback," he said.

McDonough even had an answer for the subscriber who said the network's coverage stinks. "With descriptive abilities like yours," he said, "have you ever thought about becoming a commentator?"

FINALLY, PRODIGY CHAT

Chat lines are cash cows for most online services because users have to pay for every minute of their keyboard conversations. But because Prodigy started its life as flat-fee service it has never had a chat option.

That will change this summer when Prodigy opens its first live talk channels. Officials say they plan to have Prodigy Chat in beta test in the second quarter of the year. The service is expected to come under the umbrella



of Prodigy's Plus services which carry connect time fees.

Prodigy officials said chatting has always ranked high on the list of new services that subscribers request. And they said Prodigy's market research shows that the absence of chat lines on Prodigy is the main reason many people subscribe to more than one online service.

A PEEK UNDER THE HOOD

The man who provides the horsepower and polishes the chrome on Prodigy's hardware, Senior Vice President Jim Beal, gave members a tour of Prodigy technology last month on the Prodigy bulletin board.

Callers enter the system, Beal said, through more than 1,000 phone numbers, about 400 at sites operated by Prodigy, the rest on the former BTNA-Tymnet network now run by MCI.

The Prodigy remote sites are managed by 486-based IBM PS/2s running OS/2. Each processor is connected via 56 kbps telephone company circuits to 22 hub sites and from there to a "hub and spoke" T1 network.

The central heart of the system is an IBM ES/9000-720. The central computer handles information that must spread across the network, such as mail and bulletin board traffic, but most applications are handled by the remote processors. Beal pointed out that the distributed network gives Prodigy a cost advantage over its competitors, but that advantage disappears when members need access to the central computer.

"This may help clarify why so much of the PRODIGY service is "core", while select parts are "plus", he said.

Here's what Beal had to say on other topics:

9600 bps access: All 2400 bps phone numbers on Prodigy's Q network now have corresponding 9600 bps numbers and that network supports more than 75 percent of Prodigy's members. There are now 150 9600 bps numbers on the Y network, which is run by MCI. MCI plans to roll out 9600 bps to all access numbers by September of this year.

14.4 kbps access: Prodigy is testing 14.4 modems that it hopes to begin deploying on the Q network this year. How fast they arrive at each Q site will depend on how quickly they are manufactured and installed. Beal said Prodigy is "looking at 14.4 options" for the Y network but has no firm plans yet.

800 access: Prodigy is testing an 800 service for the approximately 8 percent of its members who now must make long-distance calls to access the service. If 800 access does come, it won't be "toll free." As with CompuServe and America Online, 800 access on Prodigy will come with a surcharge.

Upgrades for Macs: Beal said Prodigy is working on a new interface for the Mac that will include all of the features found in the new Windows software. Some member testing is under way now with full beta tests to start this month.

NEW BULLETIN BOARDS

Prodigy's bulletin board section is getting a much-deserved face lift.

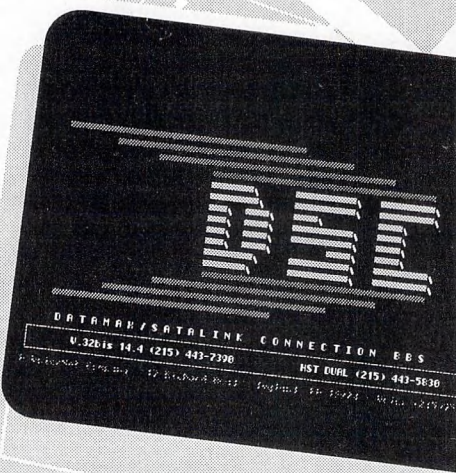
First comes cosmetics as colors change to match those of the Highlights pages. Next, the functions become more streamlined, with a smoother transition from topic to subject to note to reply.

Best of all are the improvements to the import-export option so readers can scoop up and download all notes and replies in a couple of keystrokes.

Prodigy says it will continue to make more changes throughout the year, including changes to the command bar and a "new note" indicator.

[Business writer and columnist Ric Manning reports on technology for The Courier-Journal in Louisville, Ky. His weekly "Home Tech" column on computers and consumer electronics is distributed by the Gannett News Service. You can reach him on Prodigy at USJM92A, on CompuServe at 72715,210 or on the Internet at ricman@iglou.com]

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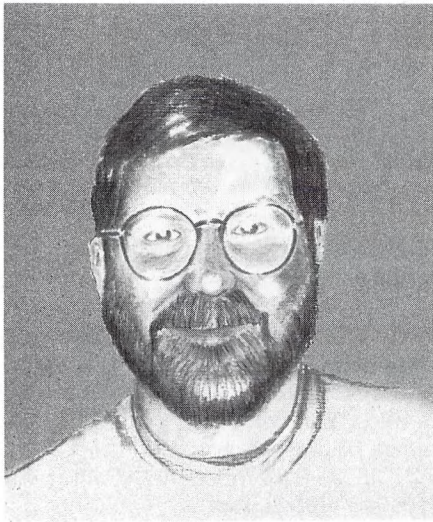
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IT'S AN e.WORLD AFTER ALL

by Bill Gram-Reefer and
Bernard Aboba



Many science fiction authors and populist techno-prophets presume an eventual dictatorship of an electronic proletariat offering direct political representation through the net. Equipped with this egalitarian power, the masses will finally force a righteous era on governments and private capital by holding binding, public policy debates on THE worldwide 'electronic web. That's the current, politically correct myth, anyways. Yet, events including the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, the demise of the Evil Empire, and the way Peter Friedman, director of Apple Online Services (AOS), pronounces the word "value" as if it had five syllables, demonstrate that reality is made of sterner stuff.

Case in point is the launch this month of e.World, Apple Computer's entry in the online services market. Featuring a Disney-like edition of its recently reacquired AOL technology, Apple hopes to replace massification with market segmentation. e.World incorporates a skin-deep village metaphor and publisher-oriented forums, not in the first instance to benefit consumers, but to add the "v-a-l-u-e" of an interface that content providers can rely on to nurture brand equity as they dispense their wares. In short, e.World is a virtual bazaar designed to maximize the opportunities for providers to better sell content to consumers.

e.World is being designed and priced as a service oriented toward professionals. Compared with America Online's pricing of \$8.95/month for two hours of off-peak time, e.World costs a monthly \$8.95 that provides 2 hours of off-peak time. Peak time costs \$2.95/month for two hours, then \$4.95/hr. Users can access e.World at 9,600 Bps with connect rates expected to climb to 14.4 by the summer.

In order to lessen the problems that can arise with anonymity, there will be no handles on e.World; everyone will own their words. Graphics are designed for 4-bit color and up, and they even managed an offline reader. Expect support for NewtonMail and an Internet mail gateway, but not full Internet support in the form of Gopher, WAIS, Telnet, or FTP services. No support for Windows users, either. e.World is a Mac ghetto for now.

But build a better online service and the world will beat a path to your door, or so believe e.World's managers. e.World's main screen presents a small town with different buildings that locate topical sections including a Computer Center, Library, Business and Finance Center, Newsstand, Arts and Leisure, and a Market Place. The "place" metaphor works only on the first level of the system, since they found that extension of the "rooms" analogy to lower levels of the service produced a "Winchester Mystery House" effect for users. Below the first level, the interface relies on windows with arrows and icons for navigation. The interface is enhanced by consistent use of icons and color-coding schemes.

e.World makes its mark by delivering a collection of information and transaction service providers, "initially targeted to meet the needs of professional users at work and at home." Unlike some online services, e.World provides special "branded" participation from providers that will allow for use of logo and other corporate and brand ID in a consistent manner so when you're in MacWeek's peanut gallery, you'll know it's Ziff; or, Dow Jones bringing you the closing tick. Apple reps claim over 100 publishers and service providers will sign onto e.World including, the Boston Computer Society, BMUG, Claris, Dow Jones, In-

foWorld, MacWorld, Reuters, USA Today, and Groliers.

e.World has also signed up Individual Inc., whose HeadsUp personalized daily news service now operates over the Internet. HeadsUp will search over 12,000 articles daily from more than 300 domestic and international sources to match stories to your custom profile chosen from 5-10 topics from a library of over 700 topics spanning hi-tech, health care, telecom, finance, automotive, and defense industries. HeadsUp will fax your morning news (sans espresso) to you each morning, or you can have it delivered to your e.World mailbox, or delivered to your hut on the beach in the Caymans via wireless transmission.

But isn't this just "rounding up the usual suspects?" Couldn't Apple attract any new players to the cutting edge of online publishing, maybe a Bill James Baseball, Cabela's, or an L.L. Bean? By now, surely Fidelity Investments has figured out that Nintendo is not really the best platform on which to introduce computerized home investment services; has anyone called them? Maybe the N.R.A.?

O.K., so Regis McKenna's going to offer Real-Time Marketing to all subscribers, providing "need-to-know" news and events for marketers, with weekly tips straight from the marketing god from Brookline; plus access to stats, books, online confs, and a bulletin board to pick the collective peer's mind. Regé! A new player?

Not new. Not cheap. But you get the picture: there will be no slumming in e.World. Just like Disneyland, no employees can swear or grow mustaches. Gotta drive a beamer, laugh at Peter's stand-up schtick, or own a Mac to apply for residency. It's an uptown, high-profile, squeaky-clean place made for Madison Avenue and corporate American Express gold cards. Now we're talkin' "v-a-l-u-e."

e.World helps vendors, publishers, and service providers focus on a kind of customer. e.World is for professionals. More segmentation could eventually appear as an entirely different e.World and metaphor for kids, or other significant demographic groups like seniors (that comes when the baby boom hits 60). There also might be ge-

ographic segmentation of e.World, users in Toronto may see a vaguely familiar village where the communications center is a cloud-piercing, needle-shaped structure. Here, there could be a level of local news, Molson ads, chit-chat and other local services before users log onto the big-time T.V. e.World will also allow users multiple configurations for use at home or office, extending further the segmentation theme.

Yet, nagging, unanswered questions remain, for instance:

1. While the e.World client for Macintosh will remember settings for usual places a user may want to visit on a regular tour around the village, there is no Navigator-like automatic pilot that can zip you in and out of e.World. Hmmm. But wouldn't that defeat the whole purpose of providing branded vendors with an upscale audience walking through the mall? What's the rush, anyways?

2. Is branded content really better than unbranded content? Not always. Ziff Interactive has worked up a lather touting its "branded" "world-class collection" of over 5,000 reviewed and rated shareware programs for Macintosh. Segmenting the file library this way makes little sense, particularly when you consider that user groups with a presence on e.World (such as BCS and BMUG) have been offering the same product for years.

3. Won't the growth of the Internet and Mac GUI BBS networks steal audience from e.World, especially since there will be no access to Internet services? Again, it appears the answer is segmentation. Hackers and enthusiasts love to drink their online experience straight, crave unbranded, low-level information, and like to hangout with celebrity hackers like Guy Kawasaki. On the other hand, e.World will pamper its well-heeled subscribers with hand-held ambiance, "branded" low-level info, and the snob-appeal of rubbing virtual shoulders with Rege. To use a store analogy, e.World is looking to be the online equivalent of Bloomingdales, rather than Filene's basement.

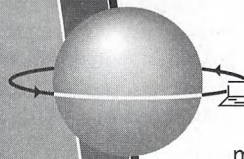
4. What about privacy? Let's face facts: they know when you bought your computer, what kind of Mac you bought, and probably where you bought it from. Who else gets that info

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on big ticket buying patterns, or what you buy online?

5. How far can you really take this segmentation thing, anyways? There is an old marketing rule that says that a segment doesn't exist unless people identify themselves as being part of that segment. This implies that customers need to have a say in the creation of forums. Does e.World's publisher-oriented model leave any room for grass-roots enthusiasm? We'll have to wait and see.

6. So, there isn't one Big Brother net after all? Whew, what a relief. But will there be an e.World for fans of The Prisoner, where no one knows exactly where they are or how they got there, has a number instead of a name, and a big bouncing ball appears on the screen when you begin to flame?

QUOTABLE QUOTE FROM MCI

When MCI announced it would beta-test a new Macintosh interface for its e-mail service I just about flipped. First some facts: to ship in first quarter '94, MCI Mail Express for Macintosh will cost \$35. The software enables users to send and receive text messages automatically when they log on. Users can enclose files, schedule connect times and work with folders that contain incoming, outgoing and draft documents.

Now the spin. Here's what MCI said was the reason for the change:

"WE FOUND THAT PEOPLE ACTUALLY USE THE SERVICE MORE IF THEY CAN ACCESS IT VIA A GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE." — Steve Berhannan, MCI alliance marketing manager

Duh! What a concept. Stop the presses. Headline: Genius Found in Corporate America. Be still my heart.

POP FOR NEWTON

InterMail from Stichting Knoware should be available now. In short, InterMail is a POP server for Newton that does the job of NewtonMail, and, according to the publishers, in some cases more. POP (Post Office Protocol) is a message retrieval and storage protocol used by mail programs, Eudora for instance.

InterMail uses the Prefs, InBox and Outbox to operate. There is no icon in the extra's drawer. You can use the default preferences title in your Newton to configure InterMail which will work via serial, modem or AppleTalk connections. InterMail lets you specify a default signature, password, username, serialpopname and serialpoppassword. The Inbox is used to receive messages. Just like NewtonMail, InterMail will have a category in the Inbox. Select InterMail from the PopUp, and mail will be received automatically. InterMail can handle normal text-only messages, these will be stored in the Notepad (Monaco font) or will be put away in a mail reader (not yet finished). With InterMail it is possible to receive notes, transcriptions, names and addresses or even complete books (if you have the memory and patience). Each will be put away in the appropriate application.

The OutBox is used to send messages from the Newton's Notepad, dates app, or names app. Each program has "InterMail" in their Print or Beam menu. To queue an Item in the OutBox, choose the menu item. You then fill in an address (and subject) for the message, then send all (or one) of the messages, using the OutBox. Note that these mail items can only be understood by another Newton. If you want to send text only mail, use the provided mail editor. For Stichting Knoware contact Peter Kaas via Internet: kaas@newton.knoware.nl

WHO IS THE CREATOR?

In the MacWorld, it's not uncommon to download a file over the net only to be faced with the impossibility of being able to double-click on the file or otherwise open it. Usually we get a message like the file type is unknown, or the application which created the file cannot be located. No paddle. No canoe. Just sharks. Binary Pump 1.0 is a simple utility which attempts to recognize files by their contents, and resets the file types and creators correctly. Just drag the blank icon of the orphaned program onto Binary Pump icon and you'll probably get your program back.

Written by Eric Shieh, the program takes up very little memory, is AppleEvents aware, is freeware, source code is available, and it offers some customizing features which allow you to add more binary tags in case the collection provided with the program

missed one of your favorites. Internet: eshieh@soda.berkeley.edu; Regular Mail: Eric Shieh, P.O. Box 1235, Danville, CA 94526, USA.

AUTOMATE THAT SEQUENCE

Runner 1.0, from Craig Vaughan, is a small application that lets you create and edit a list of applications that are to be run sequentially. This is of particular use in conjunction with BBS and FidoNet mailer software such as MacKannel.

Using Runner 1.0 you can sequence up to 30 applications at a time (any app can appear more than once). Runner will launch the first application in the list and then, when the first one quits, launch the second one and so on. This process continues until Runner reaches the last application in the list. If the "Loop" Sequence check box in the Runner window is not checked, Runner will quit immediately after launching the last application in the list. If the box is checked, however, Runner will wait for the last application to quit and then start executing the first application in the list again.

Each copy of the Runner application maintains the list of applications to run in an internal resource. This lets you set up multiple copies of Runner, each with its own sequence of applications. According to Vaughan, "By doing it this way, rather than using files for the sequences, you can actually have multiple copies of Runner executing at the same time or referring to each other as part of a larger sequence." Should you need to sequence more than 30 applications, just make a separate copy of Runner and set up the additional applications in it and make that copy of Runner the last application launched by the first copy of Runner. Runner 1.0 is 32 bit compatible, supports delayed starts and loops, and requires 128-K of RAM under System 7.0 or later.

Support for Runner is available to registered users of MacWoof/MacKannel from: Craig Vaughan BBS: (703) 241-5492; Internet: FE.MAN@GENIE.GEIS.COM; FidoNet: 1:109/342.365.

CHILDSEARCH ONLINE BBS

The following narrative comes from Rebecca Pack, president and sysop of the new ChildSearch Online BBS located in Napa, CA. You can log on to the board and view GIF images of missing or abducted children or download the files for later viewing. Callers can upload information about missing children. While the tragedy of the Polly Klaas story captured the hearts of everyone, the continuing tragedy is that tens of thousands of children disappear every year just in the U.S. Sometimes I just shake my head when people ask the question, what good is a graphical BBS? Here's one answer:

"Through the end of fall to the beginnings of winter of the year 1993, the hearts of a whole country stood still for a beautiful little girl named Polly Klaas. The 12-year-old girl became the heart of America. Her name could be heard across the land and her face could be seen from countries outside of the American boundaries. Today, her name lives on in a different way. While we hoped and prayed for this little girl to come home, her abductor was found and led us to the brutal truth of what had happened. As we know this must not happen again, we, as parents and friends to children in America, cannot allow this to happen. We know that it was Polly who has allowed us to remember, and it is she and countless other children who have allowed us to fight back.

"Her picture was posted to BBS systems across America, alongside the sketch of her abductor. From this file, posters were placed in businesses and windows from east to west, north to south. The news spread quickly because of our computer age, giving us a new reason to use our logical possessions.

"For Polly, and for all the children ever taken from their loved ones arms, the ChildSearch Online BBS has been created. This is a place where pictures and information files can be shared. It is also a place where parents, guardians, and/or friends can seek support from one another. The possibilities of the system are endless... hints on avoiding the criminals, known abductors database and their ways of committing crimes, and anything else one can think of. For the BBS is just starting out and some of the services are not available, but one can only

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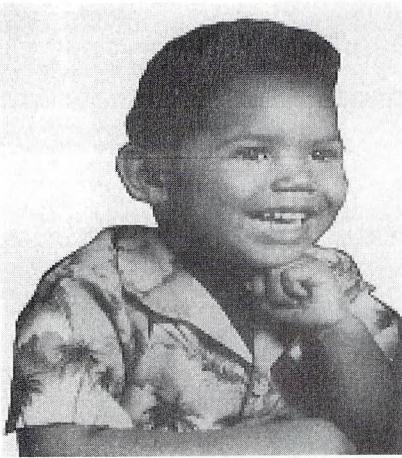
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**Pierre,
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"If you or someone you know is in need of this type of service, please call **707-253-2149** and use TeleFinder for either Windows or Macintosh. The software can be downloaded if you do not own either user package, simply login with your modem (up to 9600) and set the settings to 8N1. A downloading prompt will be available at login.

"We are just starting out, so there are not many files. Although the board is focused on missing children, we have software and classifieds to keep people logging into the system. We need online text files and pics/gifs of children who are missing, abducted, or runaways and hope that our service will prove to be effective and send these beautiful lives home.

"Software needed: TeleFinder User for Macintosh, or TeleFinder User for Windows, or any Command-line, or terminal emulation program. Connect rates are up to 9600 with 8-N-1 parameters for emulation program users (software can be downloaded from board). Registration is required at login.

"The purpose of this BBS is to assist parents, guardians, and authorities of missing and runaway children. The loss of a child through an abduction or runaway is a terrifying experience. Sometimes it may seem that there is little help. Our mission is to help find these children by displaying their pictures and information online to computer users across America. We have an area on the board for discussions and help from agencies and foundations. We are looking into other means

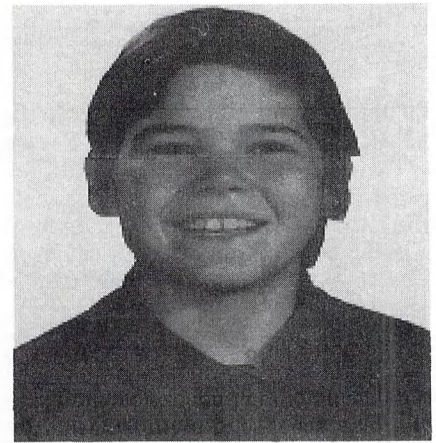
of supporting the loved ones of missing children, so any ideas are crucial and needed!

"As the board is fairly new (December 20, 1993!) we have not yet created an exhaustive library of images and information. If you know of any children who are missing, please upload their picture and/or information to our Uploads folder. Because of the sensitive nature of the BBS, all pictures and information are checked for illegal or foul use. Any offensive language, pictures, or information will NOT be posted. If you are calling from a missing children's foundation or support group, or if you know of one in your area, please let us know! We will post any information to support your group.

"At this time, we do not have a scanner. Therefore we cannot accept images via US Postal mail but we can post any text information. Donations of equipment (including scanners!), software, or cash donations are accepted and will help us create images of children from our home office. Cash donations for continued electronic mail and software downloads are \$45.00 per year or \$5.00 per month as a standard, although we do accept smaller amounts at your convenience. Any donation of equivalent (or more) through equipment is acceptable. If you are posting a picture or text file to find a missing child, your mailbox will remain on the server for however long necessary. We will not refuse service to anyone! If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Sysop through either electronic mail (send email to "Sysop") or at 707-257-8624. We will answer your call as soon as possible!

"Each missing child will have a folder [directory] dedicated to his or her own name. In this area the caller will find an image file in both PICT and GIF format, a text file describing the child and where the child was last seen before the abduction, and a conference for update information of the child's whereabouts, if possible.

"We know that some parents will not have a computer so a personal letter will be sent to these parents with information on any updates on the child's situation. All information will also be given to the local authorities of that area if necessary. Every evening, a list of missing children on the BBS with the county and state they are missing from will be disseminated



**Franko,
Anthony Bernard**

among the different online services, such as CompuServe and America Online. Future plans will include Internet, AppleLink, and GENie as more funds become available. There will also be conferences for avoidance of these criminal acts and how to protect our children, and, if willing, authorities and psychologists will be invited for discussion, letters, and/or interviews. We will eventually carry a fax gateway or fax system along with a scanner so all images can be easily placed online. Right now the only method is to provide us with a GIF or PICT file.

"Although we cannot work as a detective agency or convict any criminals, we do want to help. Children are our pride and future of this country and of our families and we cannot allow these criminals to get away with the acts of violence. Any suggestions, assistance, donations, and support are very much appreciated."

Rebecca Pack, ChildSearch Online;
234 Soscol Avenue #115 Napa, CA
94559; VOICE: **707-257-8624**; BBS:
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[Bill Gram-Reefer, based in Concord, CA, is president of WORLDVIEW, specializing in connectivity and communications. Bill has been writing about Macintosh computers since 1984. E-mail bill at **wk05156@worldlink.com**]

by Bill Gram-Reefer



HOME SCHOOLS ONLINE

While there's some big-time education money being thrown around to construct the super-duper information highway, it's imperative that every American student have the opportunity to participate and benefit. One area that bears attention is the struggle for home schoolers to gain access to this burgeoning infrastructure and wealth of new content and programs.

Why home school? Concerns over cost, beliefs, safety, fear of political manipulation and social engineering, individualism, quality, and convenience all certainly come into play when parents opt for home schooling their children instead of feeding them to the gubbermint-run schools or private and religiously-based institutions.

Jason (Ripp) Rippetoe is sysop of Ecclesia BBS and originator of the HomeSchool Online Network which is distributed via OneNet, a Macintosh-based network. According to Jason, "The home is where most of us get our first taste of education, and around the world there is a growing movement that works to keep the home at the center of the educational process. The HomeSchool Online Network exists as an online support group for families that educate their children at home and as a resource for information on the ins and outs of home schooling."

There are four conferences that make up HSONet: HomeSchool Kids (A penpal exchange for children in home schools); HomeSchool Teens (Likewise for the older set); HomeSchool Issues (Questions, answers and information about home-based educational philosophies, current controversies, news and updates); and HomeSchoolIdeaExchange (Finding out what works... and what doesn't. Sharing ideas and helpful resources in educating your children at home).

Decidedly Christian, HSONet is open to all who are interested in home education regardless of political, religious, or philosophical bent. You can find HSONet on OneNet and on the following systems: Productivity Online; UltraMac; OneNet Boulder; OneNet Los Altos; Servant Christian; ROLNet; The Hallway; MVOL; Middle Earth; Gentle Rain; Mac's Last Stand; BEST Online; LiveWire; Architext; Electronic Town; OneNet Denver; Meridian; OMUG Online; OneNet PA; MAGIC; PenteCom; PDMacS_Berlin; ENTER; Ecclesia Online, and no doubt others we're not aware of.

For more information, drop Jason Rippetoe a note in the HomeSchool Issues conference of Ecclesia BBS, or write to: HSONet, PO Box 1199, Berkeley, CA 94701. BBS number is (510) 526-6584. Internet e-mail to [jason\(ripp\)_rippetoe@bmug.org](mailto:jason(ripp)_rippetoe@bmug.org).

An active home school forum can be found in Section 16 of the Education area on CompuServe. There you'll also find Oak Meadow School, which offers curricula, program ideas, correspondence tutors, and other resources. Additionally, The Oak Meadow Telecommunications Program enables families to exchange messages and participate in discussions with other Oak Meadow parents, children and teachers around the world. In addition, students who are enrolled in Oak Meadow School in grades 5-12 with a teacher will be able to send and receive their assignments electronically using CompuServe's e-mail facility.

There is no charge for participation in the Oak Meadow Telecommunications Program, other than the usual CompuServe online charges or supplemental network charges. Messages and files can be transferred under the standard CompuServe \$7.95 monthly fee.

Conferences and downloading of library files in the Educational Forum are subject to the additional forum fees of \$12.50 per hour. If you are enrolled in Oak Meadow, you also pay regular quarterly teacher fees as detailed in the organization's catalog. For more information, call the Oak Meadow office (703-731-3263) or send a message to their CompuServe address (73540,670).

Another instance of self-paced study comes our way from Bill Male, of San Diego, CA. He reports an independent study program that allows students to work independently at home to earn a High School Equivalency Diploma. The diploma is awarded by the San Diego Community College District through its adult education department. The program itself is operated by San Diego City Schools Adult Education. An individual must be between the ages of 16 and 84 to qualify. The student takes four classes: U.S. History 2, Government, Economics, and GED Preparation. The student must then take and pass the GED. Worksheets (in packet form or on disc) and tests are mailed, faxed or sent via email to the individual. Weekly contacts are made between the student and teacher.

The student may work as quickly (or slowly) as desired. There is no fee for the program. The student must place a deposit of about \$20 for each textbook which is refunded when the textbook is returned. Students are fully prepared for the GED. The GED teacher works with each student via modem on a regular basis until the student is ready to take the test. The diploma is either mailed to the student or is presented at commencement exercises in San Diego in June. Contact Bill Male at 73003,2450 on CompuServe, or Bill_Male@aol.com, or by fax at (619) 549-9541, or telephone at (619) 530-0467.

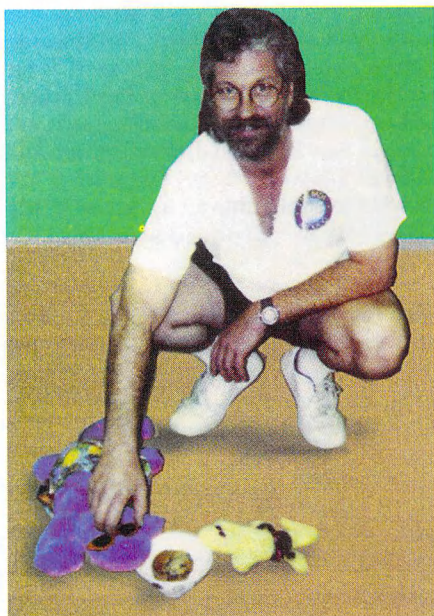
[Bill Gram-Reefer, based in Concord, CA, is president of WORLDVIEW, specializing in connectivity and communications. E-mail Bill at: wk05156@worldlink.com]

THE NETMANAGE CHAMELEONS - SOME JAMMIN VALLEY LIZARDS WITH AN ATTITUDE

by Charles Moore

A wise man once said, "You really don't know a stuffed lizard until you live with it." Well, maybe not a really wise man, in fact it was some guy that I saw talking to a parking meter downtown one day, but still, you gotta admit, it sounds like one of those deep sayings that makes for a good quote. Now that you have read this far and haven't bailed on me yet, I will get the review of this month's promotional product.

Chameleon TCP/IP for Windows. Well, not the software exactly, but they sent us this stuffed Lizard, (actually a chameleon), wearing sunglasses and some pretty bright jams. The first thing you will notice about this cotton filled reptile, is that it just sits there and stares back at you with those sunglass covered eyes. It's not like it has a choice, when you look closely, you'll notice that the shades are sewn directly to the little heads of these creatures. Now this is not a bad idea, but I don't think that it will ever replace those little strings that the "terminally hip" wear to make sure they don't lose their sunglasses when reaching for the car phone or doing their stair stepper routine.



Upon further inspection, I was immediately impressed by the plush material that covered the critter, (a kind of "cut pile skin" if you will), and the almost neon colors that (I guess) are in the spirit of the changing color characteristic of the chameleon. When you really think about it, I guess a realistic approach to this reptile would not be exactly conducive to any close contact. I mean, have you ever seen a lizard right up close? Somehow, the idea of a 36 inch scale covered crawler ain't real cute, and I'm pretty sure that was the main focus of the soft finish...the cuddle factor.

This is not the same lizard that you see gracing the pages of National Geographic, or even those Wild Kingdom shows, (you know, the show where the old guy stays in the tent to take notes while the big guy wrestles with an anaconda or venomous grizzly bear of Guatemala or something). This is one well-dressed reptile. In fact I must admit that after having this little sucker around for a while, I became quite attached to the "valley chic" look it projected.

Aside from the aesthetic value, I also became acutely aware of the practical aspect that hauling a stuffed lizard has to offer. If properly placed in the car seat next to you (with the aid of duct tape or Velcro for stability) it can pass for a reasonable car pool partner. Now granted, when you look close it's not real hard to tell that you have a stuffed lizard riding shotgun, but if you're doing anything faster than 65 or 70 on the freeway there is a pretty good chance you can stay in the old diamond lane. I might even suggest a little hat and maybe a cigar, this gives him that "just heading' out for a beer" look. However, don't expect a lot in the way of conversation, but it seems to work fairly well.

Another benefit that this floor hugger may present, is as a theft deterrent. Picture this, you need to swing by the local "stop n' rob" to pick up a jar of pickles and a slab of spam, and you are gonna be just a second. The car is running, (obviously you don't live in L.A.) and as you enter the store a would be car thief is ready to snatch your YUGO, (I never said a car thief with any brains), as he sneaks up and jumps in behind the wheel...SURPRISE! he is greeted by a three foot long attack lizard with swimming trunks and sunglasses in neon purple. Hey, let's face it,

if the guy is gonna steal a YUGO in the first place there is a good chance it might work.

As I began to look into the possible applications of my new companion a whole new world started to open up before me. The possibilities were endless (okay, I'm stretching it here a little in the name of literary license). What about giving it a proper name and claiming it as a deduction? From this point on the furry creature that so willingly shared my car pool status was to be known as BOB.

I picked this name for its simplicity, easy to remember, easy to spell - and if you look at it in a mirror it still says "BOB." I really think that giving Bob a name was the finishing touch. This was no longer just any neon purple lizard with sunglasses and Hawaiian shorts, now it has an identity.

Well, it was about this time that my family and friends started to worry about me. Even my 13-year-old daughter, Jill, said, "Dad, maybe it's time we took that vacation that you've been talking about for the past three years...we could leave Bob here to watch the house." Yeah right! Like I'm going to trust my home to a stuffed animal for a couple of weeks. Bob is quite the party reptile and you can imagine how the place would look...trashed. Hey, I'm not crazy. I can picture him on the phone the minute I leave - calling those nasty frog brothers to come over for a bowl of flies and some swamp water or something, no way.

It's been two weeks since I started this review and we have since received yet another surprise in the mail at the office. This time the package was smaller and to my surprise, when I opened the box, I was amazed to see a small pair of sunglasses staring back at me. You can imagine how jazzed we all were when the little one foot long copy of Bob was lifted out of that box. Even though this little one was not the same neon purple that we had all grown accustomed to over the last couple of weeks, (this one is neon green, I'm no expert in these matters but I believe all stuffed lizards start life in this shade) there was no mistaking the likeness, this had to be Bob's baby. The whole office was buzzing with excitement. Again, I want to stress that I really don't know very much about the reptile world so I am at

a loss to explain how a stuffed lizard can reproduce and why the little ones come delivered in a cardboard box.

I called the zoo here in Denver and asked the nice lady that answered the phone how cotton lizards go about reproducing and, after a few minutes of laughter and muffled conversation on her end, she assured me that that was a new one to her. It's not easy being on the cutting edge.

Gary wanted to take the little one home and was very disappointed when I refused to break up the family. The responsibility of taking care of a young stuffed chameleon is not one that can be taken lightly, but I was up to it. I must admit, however, I began to tire of picking up all the little cotton droppings and, as I have learned in the last week, the little ones are pretty hard to find around the house. I think I have the house breaking problem just about solved though, it takes a lot of patience and time, but a stuffed lizard can be trained. I have since learned that the young one was to shoulder the responsibility of representing the new Chameleon Internet product and was specially bred for that purpose. I guess child labor laws do not apply to the reptile world. I, for one, plan to organize a committee to put an immediate stop to these barbaric practices. If I were to get Betty White and Bob Barker...but I digress.

I guess I must face the reality of it all, all things must end at some time and my family's time with Bob and "the little one," as we call him, has come to that point. As to the actual review of the "promo item" what can I say? I know we will miss the pair of them at our house. We have decided to give them their freedom. After an evening of some "lizard fetch" and a car ride (they both really love car rides with their little snouts sticking out the window), my daughter and I set them free in an open area just in back of our house while singing a few bars of "Born Free." As a post script to this article, I walked out to the field where we gave them their freedom and to my surprise they were both sitting in the very spot where we left them a few days before. I will be going on a much needed vacation very soon.

If you want to get your own pet lizard, contact Netmanage at (408)973-7171, or e-mail them to: support@netmanage.com; or write to: Netmanage, Inc. 20823 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014.

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WORDS, SOUND AND IMAGE PROVIDERS FIGHT FOR THEIR DIGITAL RIGHTS

by Lance Rose

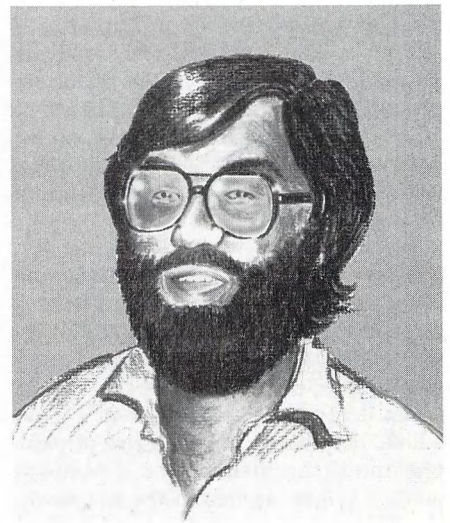
The recent bidding war between cable giant Viacom and home shopping purveyor QVC for control of Paramount ran up its stock price to tremendously over-inflated levels. Viacom ultimately won, and now must spend years working off debts to several other companies who supported in prevailing over QVC. What makes Paramount so valuable that multi-billion dollar Viacom would nearly kill itself to get control over it? The common wisdom is that existing copyrighted properties will be the gold of the information age, the raw materials for upcoming multimedia and networked products that will commandeer our entertainment spending in a few years. Paramount holds title to a large portfolio of such properties, with especially important holdings in film and publishing through such holdings as Paramount Pictures, Simon & Schuster, and Prentice-Hall. By controlling this storehouse of past hits, Viacom seems to believe it will control much of the future entertainment market. It might also be merely the worst case of Hollywood "sequelitis" on record — no thinking necessary, just repackage a hit and milk it for further profits. If Viacom's fortunes track those of the major film studios who pour forth an endless stream of sequels and remakes, it can look forward to about 50/50 chances of succeeding.

The hoopla over the vast media holdings of Paramount, Time-Warner, Sony and others commands the lion's share of the press' attention. However, it is not the whole story of the struggle over copyright control in an increasingly digital information and entertainment environment. In a trio of federal cases pending in Manhattan, the creators of music, texts and pictures are staking their own respective claims to use of their works in multimedia and online products by large publishers and distributors. Differing legal issues are involved, but the underlying complaint is exactly the same: large publishers and electronic information distributors are putting copyrighted works into new multimedia

and online products without bothering to pay the creators of the works. Any single case might be seen as an isolated set of circumstances. Three at once is a trend. They are the little guy counterpart to the investment and merger mania consuming the big companies in the "convergence" industries. The people who actually create the content for the new world-spanning entertainment media are demanding their share.

The first case, Frank Music Corp. v. CompuServe, was filed as a class action on behalf of over 140 music publishers and owners in November, 1993. It was instigated by the Harry Fox Agency, an industry-wide service that licenses the rights to record music on CD's, video, television shows and other media. The claim is that CompuServe infringed the rights to various songs, most notably the Righteous Brothers' "Unchained Melody", by permitting them to be distributed on CompuServe's online service. We first discussed this case in Boardwatch a couple of months ago, focusing on CompuServe's broad right to distribute other's free speech without having to investigate the legality of all materials on the system (as demonstrated in the earlier case Cubby vs. CompuServe). This defense will undoubtedly be the centerpiece of the Frank Music case as well. The court is essentially being asked if everyone in the chain of unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials must pay the copyright owners. Which is more important, the system for transmitting digital works, or the individual works themselves?

You won't find this issue anywhere in the official complaint filed by Frank Music. They won't admit in court there's a 1st Amendment problem with enforcing their copyrights against CompuServe. Harry Fox Agency does put an amusing bit of spin on the subject in the court of public opinion, however. In a press release, its president Edward Murphy says, "The U.S. Supreme Court has wisely ruled that copyright protection is the engine of free expression." Nice out-of-context try at co-opting the opposition's argument, but the judge is unlikely to view Harry Fox's attempt to clobber CompuServe for distributing music files to a wider audience as a big step forward for free expression. It's more likely that either the 1st Amendment will be



recognized as an absolute shield against holding CompuServe responsible for unknowing distribution of these music files, or the judge will seek some accommodation between the property rights of copyright owners and the right of the public to unfettered speech distribution systems.

Actually, none of these issues would be considered if Harry Fox Agency had chosen to sue the people who personally distributed the files in question, instead of scapegoating CompuServe. By bringing CompuServe into the fray, they seem to be specifically seeking a court ruling that online services are responsible for all the messages moving through their system. If so, they'll probably be disappointed. The federal courts have shown a great deal of interest to date in keeping speech distribution operations like book stores, magazine distributors and online services clear of overburdensome obligations to monitor the materials being distributed.

The other major legal issue in the Frank Music case might have been whether digitized music files are even covered by copyright, but that question appears to have been answered in the case of Playboy v. Frena, decided last December. The court held that Tech's Warehouse BBS infringed Playboy's copyright in its girlie pictures by knowingly maintaining images scanned from those pictures and permitting them to be downloaded by users. The finding that digitized photos are copyrightable should carry straight over to the songs at issue in the Frank Music

case: if magazine photos retain their copyright status when they are stored, displayed and transmitted in a computer network environment, so should musical works. In case you're thinking that a finding of infringement against Tech's Warehouse means CompuServe is also an infringer, there's one very important difference: Tech's Warehouse knew about the infringing images on its system, while no one is claiming that CompuServe know about the songs at issue in the Frank Music case.

The second case was filed by the National Writers Union against the New York Times and several other newspapers and electronic publishers in December, 1993. The NWU claims that newspapers are routinely exceeding their print publication licenses from freelance writers by making their stories available in both printed and online form. This case arises within a business relationship between the writers and publishers, in contrast to Frank Music, where the music composers and CompuServe have no underlying business connection. It also takes place at a time when the major newspapers and magazines are storming online, either on their own or as part of the offerings of Prodigy, CompuServe or America Online. Most of these publishers are providing or about to provide their complete printed texts in electronic form. They probably don't have much choice: anything less than full text could be fatal for the online product, making it look like a shoddy, inferior version of the printed publication.

NWU's president, Jonathan Tasini, says, "Throughout this country, the Union believes, writers' work is being systematically infringed through the placing of material that they own on electronic databases and CD-Roms, without their consent and without further payments. We believe publishers are illegally making millions off unauthorized re-use. It's clear that anyone who freelances is losing significant income." While NWU's position is clear from this statement, the truth of Tasini's assertions is not as clear as he would have us believe. Many of the newspapers and magazines going online are now obtaining electronic publishing rights from their freelancers. For those who did not yet make that move, the fact of this case assures they will soon be doing so as well. This means the case is not about current or future news articles, but old news —

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the historical database. Rights problems relating to old news stories will provide some people a lot of work over the next few years, but this is essentially a transitional matter of decreasing importance over time.

The NWU case recalls the situation several years ago when videocassettes became a major new medium for film distribution. The owners of film music claimed that licenses they granted in the past for theatrical use did not cover the new medium of home videocassettes. Courts wrestled with licenses that failed to mention the magic word "videocassettes" and came out with varying opinions. It's not a simple decision: when the standard method of distributing a work changes in mid-stream, whether it's films moving to videocassette or newspapers going to online delivery, should that create an additional licensing opportunity for the copyright owner, or is there an inherent extension of the rights originally licensed to the publisher, who should not have to pay for the same rights twice?

The other thing that is not clear is how much money is at stake in online newspaper publishing. It is hard to say whether freelancers would get a dime more per story even if their union wins this case. The price for a new article has a lot more to do with the supply and demand for freelance writers than with how many legal rights the writer has in the article. Ironically, writers of old stories stand the best chance of getting paid off, by newspapers seeking full control over their historical databases. In addition, it is not a given that the overall revenue pie for newspapers will grow when they all offer online services, especially since they will have to compete with a host of other online publishers in the new environment. Online publishing could turn out to be no more than an unprofitable sideline that all traditional publishers will need to offer if they want to stay in business in the electronic age. If this is the case, it would hardly be fair for writers to get more money from publishers based on having an extra right or two.

The final case was filed by stock photo company FPG International against popular Long Island newspaper Newsday in February, 1994. FPG claims Newsday infringed the copyrights in two FPG photographs when it combined pieces of the photos to create new images. The images were used to

illustrate a cover story on "Virtual Reality" in Newsday's weekend edition. The main picture shows a man and a woman with computer monitors for heads racing about on a Daliesque horizontal plane, with a split city skyline in the background. It is clear the bodies were lifted from an FPG photo with identical bodies, and clockfaces for heads instead of monitors. Similarly, the city skyline was taken directly from another FPG image, then split into halves that were rearranged on the final Newsday composite photo.

Why didn't Newsday simply buy the rights to the component images? They wouldn't have had any trouble finding FPG to arrange the license, as they apparently licensed over 150 other images from FPG in the past few years. It seems either Newsday is testing the waters on digital image rights by deliberately refusing to pay for the component images, or it has an overly lax rights licensing department. In any case, FPG is ready for the challenge. Its president Barbara Roberts says, "Our problem here is not with the technology of digital imaging, which can be put to stunning and inventive use. Rather, the issue is the low level of awareness of many of those who are using these techniques (as well as selling the scanning equipment) about the established laws governing copyright protection of existing photographs." Lest we think FPG too bland, she continues, "What this case demonstrates is the widespread larceny of printed photographs by unauthorized digital scanning."

Larceny indeed. While Newsday's use of FPG's images is readily apparent, its composite image has an overall appearance and meaning distinctly different from the source images. This doesn't reduce the likelihood that the court will find infringement under the current law. As the famous jurist Learned Hand succinctly observed over 50 years ago, "no plagiarist can excuse the wrong by showing how much of his work he did not pirate." However, it does suggest that the laws in this area could be changed to reflect a more realistic balance between the owners of copyrighted sources and the creators of derivative works. FPG cannot guarantee that its approach is the fairest to all parties. If Newsday has to pay for the rights to use two or more FPG photos in a composite image, such a license will be unreasonable unless it costs the same or less than a regular license to use all of one photo. Further, as digi-

tal composing becomes more widely spread, the administrative cost of clearing rights could, in itself, work a great unfairness on newspapers in the name of protecting authors' rights.

As FPG's Roberts puts it, "As much as we believe in the future of digital delivery, we feel this case sends a critical message to the design community, to become more enlightened to the realities of photo piracy in the computer age. If the new photography users don't learn the law and negotiate reasonable usage fees up front, it will cost them big money in the end." Big words, and they apply as much to the lawsuits by Harry Fox Agency and the National Writers Union as to FPG's battle with Newsday. With these three cases, the owners of words, sound and image are serving notice that they will fight for their piece of the action in the growing world of online services. They're asserting that copyright law is alive and well and protecting their property rights, and that it works pretty much the same way on the net as off it. Maybe so, but as these folks venture out into the net, they will be forced just like everyone else to submit to the gale forces of change sweeping regularly through the online world.

[Lance Rose is an attorney practicing high-tech and information law in Montclair, NJ with the firm Lance Rose & Associates. He can be found on the Internet at elrose@path.net, and on CompuServe at 72230,2044. He is also author of SysLaw, the legal guide for online service providers, available from PC Information Group at 800-321-8285 - Editor]

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Excalibur BBS Windows	Excalibur Communication, Inc.	918-496-7881	918-491-0033	918-496-8113	Windows	Unlim	8	OS	Y	3	3	3	N	Y	\$349	\$199
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FALKEN Multiuser BBS	INFO*SHARE, Inc.	703-791-2910	703-791-2910	703-803-8000	DOS	?	64	I	N	3	O	I	I	Y	\$999	\$149
FirstClass	SoftArc, Inc	416-299-4723	416-754-1856	416-609-2250	MAC	100	22	OS	Y	3	O	N	I	Y	\$3450	\$95
GAP	GAP Development Co	714-496-3774	714-496-3774	714-493-3819	DOS	100	16	DV	Y	3	3	I	Y	Y	\$359	\$79
Hermes II	Computer Classifieds	206-643-2316	206-643-7830	206-643-2874	MAC	10	10	OS	Y	3	3	N	N	Y	\$95	\$95
hi-BBS	XBR Communication	514-489-1001	514-489-4966	514-489-0445	MAC	130	?	OS	Y	N	O	N	N	Y	\$3,400	\$70
Kitten	TelPro Technologies	804-442-5865	-	804-442-5867	DOS/OS2	999	?	OS	Y	3	3	N	N	Y	\$195	\$195
Magnum BBS	Gilmore Systems	805-379-3210	805-379-1340	805-379-3450	OS2	64	?	OS	Y	N	N	I	N	Y	\$900	\$75
MEGAHOST	ASCII Computer Enterprises	-	-	209-836-2402	DOS	10	8	DV	Y	3	3	3	N	Y	\$49	\$49
Multi-Net	Multi-Net Communications	503-883-8099	503-883-7879	503-883-8197	OS2	999	12	OS	Y	N	N	I	N	Y	\$895	\$195
Novalink Professional	ResNova Software Inc	714-379-9000	714-379-9014	714-379-9004	MAC	Unlim	40	OS	Y	3	I	N	N	Y	?	\$300
OPUS-CBCS		214-528-4687	-	214-528-4943	DOS	255	1	DV	N	I	3	3	N	Y	Free	Free
PCBoard	Clark Development, Inc	801-261-1686	801-261-8987	801-261-8976	DOS	1000+	16	DV	Y	I	3	I	3	Y	\$10,000	\$170
PowerBBS for Windows	Power Computing	516-938-0506		516-822-7396	Windows	Unlim	9	Win	N	3	I	I	N	Y	\$189	\$99
Powerboard BBS	NUIQ Software, Inc	914-833-3479	914-833-3623	914-833-1479	DOS	999	8	DV	Y	I	3	I	N	Y	\$2300	\$99
ProBoard	ProBoard International	612-537-8655	612-537-8613	612-537-8659	DOS	255	8	DV	Y	I	N	I	N	Y	\$49	\$49
ProLine	Morgan Davis group	619-670-0563	619-670-9643	619-670-5379	APPLE II	1	1	-	Y	N	I	N	N	N	\$159.95	
Remote Access	Wantree	913-441-1336	913-441-0596	913-441-0595	DOS	250	1	DV	Y	3	-	3	N	Y	\$529	\$149
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Second Sight Software	Scott Watson, FreeSoft Co.	412-846-2700	-	412-846-5312	MAC	2	2	OS	Y	3	N	N	N	N	?	\$199
SpitFire BBS	Buffalo Creek Software	515-225-9552	-	515-225-8496	DOS	255	1	DV	Y	3	3	I	N	Y	\$85	\$85
Synchronet	Digital Dynamics	714-529-6328	714-529-9721	714-529-5313	DOS	250	10	DV	Y	I	3	I	N	Y	\$399	\$99
TBBS	eSoft, Inc	303-699-6565	303-699-6872	303-699-8222	DOS	-	64	I	N	O	3	O	N	Y	\$1995	\$295
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TinyHost	Bruce Krobusek	716-924-8284	716-924-4193	716-924-4193	DOS	1	1	DV	N	N	N	N	N	Y	\$25	\$25
UltraBBS Company	CDB Systems Inc.	303-642-7534	303-444-0035	303-642-7463	DOS	Unlim	4	DV	Y	I	I	I	Y	Y	\$75	\$75
Virtual BBS	Virtual Technologies	210-787-2443	616-399-8934	616-399-4818	DOS/OS2	1024	16	DV	Y	I	3	I	I	Y	\$999.00	\$99.00
Wildcat!	Mustang Software, Inc	805-873-2500	805-873-2599	805-873-2400	DOS	250	8	DV	Y	3	O	I	O	Y	\$799	\$129
Z/Max XChange	Z/Max Computer Solutions, Inc	315-635-1882	315-635-1908	-	UNIX	Unlim	-	OS	Y	N	I	N	N	Y	?	\$695

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The AQUILA BBS Team (Left to right: Kevin & Kristy Behrens, Steve Williams, Chris Babb)

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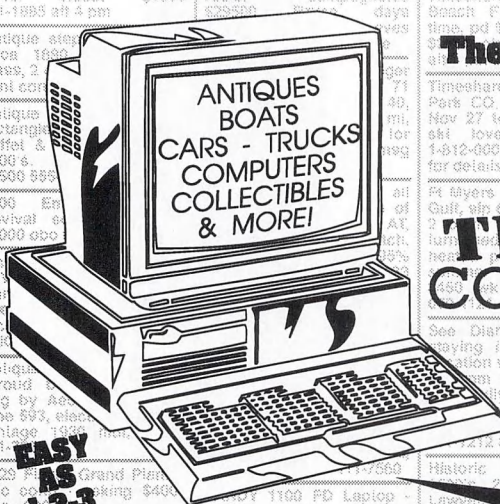
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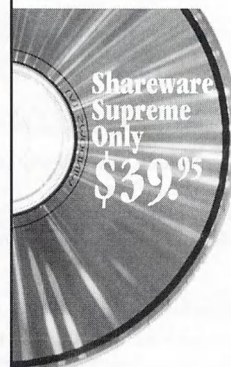
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CYBER SOLIDARITY

by Brian Gallagher

As on and off ramps to the information super highway sprout like seedlings in the springtime, electronic access continues to find its way into all facets of society. With big and small businesses alike going cyber, it was only natural that employee representation would follow - yes, union bulletin boards. Deep in the heart of one of the most populated states in this country, James Combs' Peacock BBS (516)884-1328, running PC Board, in Lindenhurst, New York, is a foot in the door for member access to union activity.

While Combs admits that most people view unions as "a bunch of thugs," he insists that is simply not true. Unions stand for dignity, job security and family he said, adding that while these goals are rather utopian, he maintains "a strong belief in what unions stand for and what they have done for our country." Bulletin boards, he sees as a way to help form a more cohesive and stronger union.

Combs, who works as a electrical systems engineer for NBC in New York, said, "One of the main reasons I started the board was to give my union another way to communicate with its constituency." Keeping employees informed in a work atmosphere such as a television station can be quite a chore, he adds, as the station runs 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, there are some co-workers Combs says he hasn't seen physically in over two years, although their online interaction continues on a regular basis.

It is important to note that Combs' Peacock BBS is in no way officially connected to the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians, or NABET, other than Combs is a union member (local 11), posts bits of union newsletters on his board and has several conferences dedicated to the discussion of union activity. In September of 1993, the union asked Combs to give a presentation about the Peacock BBS; what he told them left them looking over their shoulders rather than looking to the future.

After walking the union big wigs through an introductory video tape of what a BBS is, how it is used and the

potentials involved with it; he produced Lance Rose's September 1993 Boardwatch Magazine article - reprinted with publisher Jack Rickard's permission. The article told the story of the Writers Guild of America West and the changes that came about when this union put up a BBS for its members.

Essentially, the writers, (union members), took a keener interests in the things that were going on in their union. Particularly they were concerned about recent union agreements, such as: guild writers would not take a cut of video cassette royalties, and guild writers would not receive a cut of foreign sales of American films - two of the biggest money makers in the industry today. These policy decisions made by the union in the interest of "industrial harmony" between the producers, studios and the union did more than ruffle some feathers with its constituency.

It didn't take long for WGAW union members to voice their concerns about union policies and dealings on the BBS. Soon the more vociferous individuals were regularly censored by the union sysops, with over 200 messages eventually being deleted in a single night. The whole thing went to court and came out of court as messed up as it went in - with the major difference being the union members set up their own BBS and now hold a much heavier hand when dealing with the union.

As you can imagine, this bit of information didn't do much to brighten the days of NABET union representatives. To the further dismay of union officials in his videotaped screen display, the first message officials were exposed to was about union officials in Pennsylvania being indicted for pilfering retirement funds. "I think it scared them off," Combs said of the presentation, "there hasn't been an official word since, "although the board is mentioned now and again in union meetings.

For his part Combs is not deterred, although to date his board has had little effect in the outcome of policy decisions, he is confident that it

will: "It's just a matter of time before their wake-up call comes," he said. In his local union office they have two computers he said, used for word processing and producing the union newsletters - and he adds, they still have typewriters.

Since 1985 when General Electric took over NBC, Combs feels that the union under GE has been too complacent in bargaining away worker privileges and benefits, with the Peacock BBS as a tool, he hopes one day to change that.

Combs joined the Navy right out of high school and learned computers there. He was the sonar man on the U.S.S. George Washington Carver, SSBN 656, submarine. After his six year stint in the Navy, Combs found his current job working for NBC. In the late 1980s, Combs purchased his first modem (2400 baud). "That was the best thing since toast," he reminisced.

The Peacock is a one line BBS taking around 300 calls per month, and steadily growing. He has 1.5 gigabytes of files, with no pornography files, (he wants to run a "good" board), and is connected to Solinet - a labor oriented echo-mail network dedicated to informing the public of union policies and procedures from around the world. The Solinet connection is his favorite part of the board. What he likes best about it is that he gets to talk to people all over the country. In the words of Wayne and Garth from Wayne's World, (the movie), he said laughing, "I'm not worthy; I'm not worthy."



James Combs of the Peacock BBS

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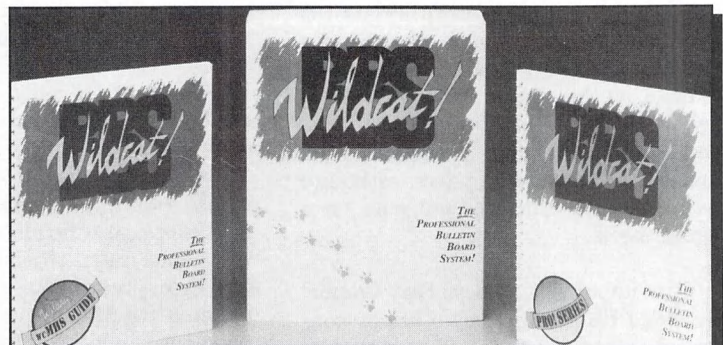
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Combs lives with his wife Toni, who is heavily involved in the computer room at Daniel Street Elementary School where she volunteers as a technical assistant. The couple has two children, 7-year-old Jesse, who is fond of typing from the DOS prompt, and Evan, their 5-year-old son. Like many BBSs there is always something that needs attention on the Peacock, but Combs is careful to set aside one day a week just to play guitar, (a hobby he picked up after being cooped up on a submarine), just to keep his brain from turning to gel.

The vacancy of bulletin boards in representative arenas is a vacuum not likely to continue for a great length of time. As with governing bodies, unions and many other organizations are sure to be scrutinized much more closely than they have in years past by an audience willing and capable of thumbing through every detail of their maneuverings. As for the Peacock BBS, it is likely Combs isn't far off target when he said, "It's only a matter of time."

Combs can be reached via snail mail: The Peacock BBS, James Combs/Sysop, 488 N. Monroe Avenue, Lindenhurst, NY 11757. He can also be reached via email: combs@oandtsvt.nbc.ge.com

MIRACLES IN TORONTO

by Brian Gallagher

Somehow the echoes down the long Shalls seem a bit louder - a bit more pronounced. The fluorescent lights overhead spread their pale light omnisciently, letting no corner find darkness, no crevice untouched. The air you breathe is different than air you breathe anywhere else - it has the same even temperature so that you can hardly tell you are breathing at all, excepting the antiseptic taste that it leaves on the tip of your tongue.

It is not a place that anyone generally enjoys going to. It is a place of life, a place of death, a place of constant struggle. And even though thousands may be housed in just a single one, it is often a place of great and unending loneliness. For its occupants, too often it offers hour upon hour of isolation, time spent staring at a dead television blurring out pre-programmed drivel.

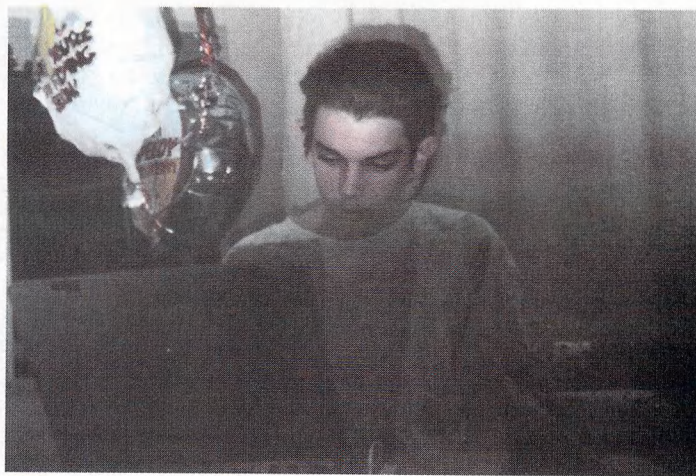
The distraction of a nurse bringing medicine or a meal is always a welcome interruption. If you are lucky enough to have those that care a great deal about

you, and if they are lucky enough to have the time and means - visiting hours can be a blessing like no other. Precious predetermined visiting hours. When they are over, the boredom returns - and the waiting - and the loneliness.

If the scenario is not a familiar one to you, be grateful. If it is, imagine this same loneliness, this same uncertain fear through the eyes of a child - lying in bed, alone, after visiting hours. All the warm smiles from all the nurses in the world, won't replace or dispel the warm lips of a mother pressed to a youngster's forehead, or the strong and loving presence of a father just being there at the bedside.

Computers too, are seen in much the same way - sterile, antiseptic...terribly logical and frighteningly accurate. They are no more than a hollow plastic shell filled with metals, glass and silicon, all configured and formed in a most fantastic way to imitate intelligence - yet completely unfeeling. But, as many bulletin board enthusiasts have discovered they are also something quite a bit more, they are a conduit to another reality. A passageway to where a person can be whatever they want to be - a place where everyone is equal, a place where people are made whole.

Thanks to the efforts of long time sysop Brian Hillis, and Dr. Arlette Lefebvre, staff psychiatrist for the Hospital for Sick children in Toronto Ontario, thousands of children have a lot more to look forward to than just visiting hours. Through a computer and modem the pervading loneliness so common in many hospitals simply dissipates with the morning's dew. Their creation, the Ability On-



James Bartlett shortly after a heart transplant

line Support Network, (416)650-5411, running PC Board, isn't just a bulletin board where kids and young adults both disabled and not can talk and interact with one another; it isn't just a place where they can pick up helpful hints on "How to get your wheel chair through the snow," or "How to inject yourself with a needle," it is much more.

This is a bulletin board that we should all know about and take example from; on what other board would you find a message like the following in a public message area, "The doctors say this will be my little brother's last summer. Has anyone out there gone through something like this? Please, if you have, tell me what you did to ease the pain of watching a loved one die and not being able to do anything about it." This bulletin board, more than any other that I have run across, makes a difference. A good positive difference



Aimie Palmer doing what she loves best

everyday, day after day - and the only profit ever reaped from this BBS are truckloads of smiles and more than likely even a life here and there.

Lefebvre, "Dr. Froggie" to her patients (Canadians call French people Frogs and she is French), along with a small band of volunteers, run up and down the hallways of the hospital, and the Hugh MacMillan Rehabilitation Centre, with laptops connected to modems brightening the days of countless patients with often critical conditions.

James Bartlett, 14, is just such a youngster. Two months ago he went to the hospital for a bad case of the flu. Numerous tests and a stroke later it was discovered that he had a rare form of muscular dystrophy called Becker's Dystrophy, causing his heart to swell to the size of a football. For this reason he has been largely confined to his bed for fear that the strain of simply walking around would give him a heart attack.

In the first interview with James, he couldn't find enough good things to say about Ability Online. "When I get a modem," he said, "I don't think I'll ever get offline." It is truly the highlight of his day. So much so that he has convinced his parents to get him a laptop of his own, which they willingly did. His father, Dave, said they didn't think twice about fulfilling James' request for a computer because inside that little black box, filled with keys and software, lies a cure the pharmacy doesn't stock - "hope."

Aimie Palmer, 17, is another who knows only too well the power of human interaction. Aimie has been through three brain surgeries for a benign tumor and resulting cyst at the base of her brain stem, and is scheduled for a fourth March 22. Though she suffers from frequent sleepiness, intense dizzy spells, bouts of unbearable double vision and very painful headaches, "...of course," she does so with a remarkable sense of bravery.

She speaks matter of factly about her coming surgery and seems more concerned with answering her 20 to 25 pieces of online mail that she receives daily, and what her class is doing than with anything else. She laughs when she speaks about Ability Online and Dr. Froggie, and is glad for all of the friends she has met there - for their support, for their friendship, for their mail.

Aimie, who goes by the moniker "Brainless Wonder" online, recently sent some supportive mail to James about a friend of hers who had a heart transplant six years ago and whose wife just had a baby. James and Aimie have a lot in common with one another, and through Ability Online, have formed a "very special relationship" according to Lefebvre.

On March 2, 1994, at midnight, James' long and fearful wait came to an end. The heart transplant he had been waiting for took place. Even during his operation, all of his online pen pals knew it was going on and that it was going well thanks to Lefebvre, who spends no less than four hours every night answering her mail.

Less than two days later, a smiling James with more color to his skin than many had seen in quite sometime - dictated replies to his e-mail, while Lefebvre diligently typed them in for him. A day later, still smiling he read and re-read his mail to the nurses and all who would lend an ear to listen.

The difference this bulletin board has made in the lives of these two children is not easily said in one short article, but imagine the difference between a smile and a tear and you'll get the idea. Then imagine 20,000 calls in January and 18,300 calls in February and all of the children, and all of the smiles, and all of the good that is being done - it is really quite overwhelming.

So overwhelming that the board's 10 lines are jam packed from two in the afternoon through midnight. Kudos to Practical Peripherals who are donating a beta test version of their new 16 card modem rack to the board to alleviate the overload. They are also donating 20 modems, in addition to the 50 that they have already donated to be given out to those children and classrooms in need. Many private users also donate their old modems to the board where Hillis distributes them.

Some of the modems go home with children who are awaiting transplants. Others go to patients with laptops who, for one reason or another, won't be leaving the hospital for some time. Still others go to classrooms where entire classes including teachers keep in touch with a classmate taken ill. And always there are the volunteers, the Hillis' and the Lefebvre's taking their time to be sure that it works - that the smiles keep coming.

Everyday of the week it seems that I hear about some great new board with this or that feature; a ton of files, a million lines; lightning fast modems; crystal clear graphics, and many are truly amazing. But somehow, my whole definition of what a great board really is just got rewritten. I can only wonder: When is it that other children will be afforded the same miracle these two have created in Canada?

For more information about the Ability Online Support Network call their voice line at: (416)650-6207, or you can send them e-mail to: info@ablelink.org. Their snail mail address is Ability Online Support Network, 919 Alness Street, North York, Ontario M3J 2J1, Canada.

WASHINGTON WEDDING: A TALE OF TWO BOARDS

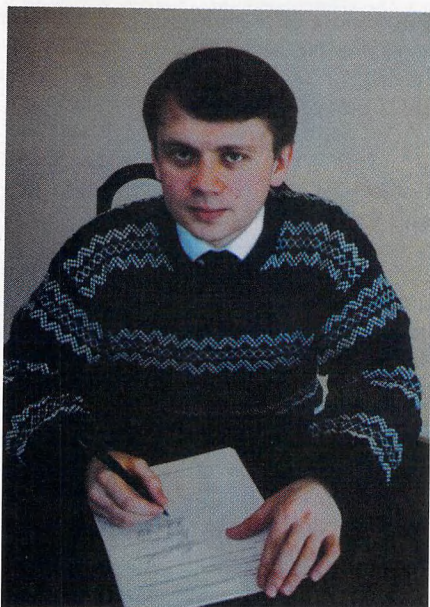
by Brian Gallagher

Among all of the conventioners at last year's ONE BBSCON in Colorado Springs, getting the latest on one of the fastest growing industries on the globe, two sysops, Andrew Bilski and Tony McClenny set the foundations to do some growing of their own. While the idea of merging their two PC Board BBSs, Bilski's Main Frame (301)654-2554 in Germantown, MD, and McClenny's Virginia Connection, (703)648-1841 in Reston, VA, had been brought up before - nothing really came of it until the August trade show.

For McClenny, a retired business executive, and Bilski, a computer specialist for an accounting firm, creating one of the Washington D.C. area's largest boards is simply a Capitol idea. Today the two talk turkey about modems, machines, telnet and Internet galore, but 15 years ago they were worlds apart.

As the manager of a 25,000 square foot warehouse style retail store in 1979, McClenny took a night class in computers at a local college to get caught up on new technologies. The moment he saw the realities of computers and what they could do, he saw possibilities and applications not only for business, but also in the education of his children. So, it came as no surprise when there was a computer under the family tree that Christmas.

Thousands of miles across the Atlantic Ocean, a young Andrew Bilski, in



Andrew Bilski of the Main Frame BBS

Krakow Poland, "...wanted to see how it was in this country." When opportunity knocked in 1980, he answered. Before arriving on our shores he had two impressions of America, largely reflected in popular opinions among Poles...1) In America money grows on trees, and 2) In America all you can afford is window shopping. What he found was a harsher reality. After being here only a short while, he was shot numerous times during a robbery while walking home from a midnight mass in the Washington, D.C. area.

With two bullets still lodged inside of him he recovered and persevered. Undaunted by this sizable set back, Bilski's eyes turned not to this unfortunate turn of events, but to technology. For the longest time he was intrigued by the Commodore 64 computer with 300 baud modem, but the \$600 purchase price just wasn't in his budget. When the price dropped to \$200 in 1983, he couldn't afford not to get one. As is always the case with natural born sysops, Bilski couldn't resist setting up his own BBS, and in just over a year The Main Frame was born. Why did Bilski call his board Main Frame? "I say hey...small computer, big name - let's go for it!"

Meanwhile, McClenny kept up on his computer classes and assisted computerizing the company he worked for. This had its rewards, by 1984 he was promoted to district manager, in charge of 11 stores, with over \$140 million in annual sales. The new position came

with a temporary relocation to Virginia Beach separating him not only from his family, but from his latest greatest hobby - a BBS he was running for friends on a TRS 80.

While in Virginia Beach, McClenny took seriously ill and was unable to work for three months. This illness turned out to be a blessing in disguise as it became a pit-stop on McClenny's travels down the Information Super Highway.

Being away from his BBS and away from work McClenny started going a little stir crazy. To alleviate his boredom, he talked a friend into driving him to town, (he was too weak to drive), where he purchased his first IBM PC along with RBBS. The rest of what happened is now called the Virginia Connection, and it started as a way to fill the 10 meg hard drive on McClenny's new computer.

As time passed the two fledgling sysops took the steps that would eventually lead them to each other's doors. Bilski replaced his aging and limited Commodore with an IBM PC and loaded it with PCBoard. McClenny also switched to PCBoard and became a charter member of the Capitol Area Sysops Association, where he and Bilski would become better acquainted. Bilski and McClenny met regularly at the CASA meetings and continued exchanging ideas for several years, which eventually led to Bilski proposing a merger about a year and a half ago. While that didn't go through, they did decide to merge into the same hotel room at ONE BBSCON last year - cutting their expenses and doubling the area they could cover at the event.

During the convention each took "pages and pages of notes" and joked about merging their two boards from time to time over meals, but it was always light-hearted chat. The real winners from the show turned out to be the users - as both sysops came away with new additions to their boards: McClenny added PC Catalog to the Virginia Connection, and Bilski found his golden thread of Internet through Brad Clements' Murkworks Software, (315)265-4717.

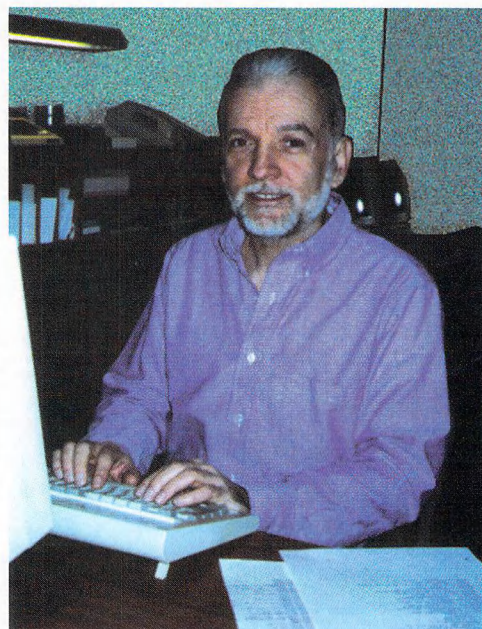
A short while after the show the joking stopped and the idea of merging the two boards again surfaced, but this time nobody was laughing. As an interesting turn of events, it

was McClenny who approached Bilski with the merger idea on this go 'round, and early this year - knowing that they were doubling many efforts, Bilski agreed. The merger involves a lot of work including reworking the software for the two systems, merging two 5,000 member databases, and piles of paper work associated with such a venture. While it is a big step, both men are looking forward to their new creation with excited anticipation.

The World Net, (703)620-8900, will offer 33 lines, extensive Internet with telnet, over 12 gigabytes of files, and if everything goes as planned - will be open for business April 1 - no fooling!

Besides the BBS, the two also plan on utilizing Bilski's talents and expertise as a certified Novell engineer by installing PCBoard for companies, organizations and individuals. Bilski, who works for his employer on a reduced schedule of three days per week - considers the possibility of one day working full time as a sysop. If this happens, it is likely he will spend most of his time engrossed with the internet, and tinkering with telnet.

Listening to him talk about telnetting you'd think you were listening to a 1950s radio commercial, "It is new, unique and fun to use telnet," he says, but it doesn't take long for you to realize that he isn't trying to sell you on anything - he's just excited. Watching people telnet to his board from Italy,



Tony McClenny of the Virginia Connection BBS

Brazil, Singapore and Japan is the thrill of his day. And for good reason - it seems that telnet has been very, very good to him. A certain Christina "Tina" Hughes, the significant other in Bilski's life who is on assignment in Japan for the company she works for, telnetted a "Yes" from Japan this last Valentine's Day onto Bilski's Main Frame. Bilski's comment, "She took her time to decide, but I got my answer and I'm happy about it." It seems that merging and BBSing are in all facets of Bilski's life.

While many smaller BBS operators fear one day being swallowed by the larger services, eventually drowning in an online sea of anonymity, these two have ensured their existence as one of the big fish to be contended with in the D.C. area. Thanks to the cyber realm, the much fabled and ballyhooed "Land of Opportunity" seems to be just that, at least for one Polish immigrant. And for many others, whether they are in America, Africa, Europe or Eurasia - opportunity seems to exist wherever a phone line, computer, modem and will come together.

For more information on World Net, call their voice line at: **(703)648-0808**, or write to them snail mail: World Data Network, Inc., 11088 Thrush Ridge Road, Reston, VA 22091-4722.

The Capitol Area Sysops Association can be reached at: **(202)310-4591**, or send letters to: CASA, P.O.Box 2963, Merrifield, VA 22116-2963.

BOARDING IN BALTIMORE

by Brian Gallagher

While Baltimore, Maryland, may not have a football team anymore, (in recent memory it is questionable they ever did), they do have bulletin boards. Lots of bulletin boards. Keeping these online players on the roster and up to date is sysop Brad Blase of the Silver Streak BBS, **(410)683- 1583**. With over 300 BBSs to keep track of, the task is something even the most astute statistics pro would find challenging.

Thanks to the technology that he so assiduously tracks, Blase keeps his list in tip top shape by letting his computer do most of the work for him. He wrote a program in script language for the shareware program <COMMO> to verify the telephone numbers on his BBS

list. The program dials the BBS numbers and determines if the modem connects to another modem. In the event of a non-connect or a busy signal, the program stores these numbers in a queue and re-dials them later. After eight hours of solid dialing and some 2,000 calls placed, Blase gets about 250 verified BBSs.

With a population of 736,014, according to 1991 metropolitan statistical abstracts, and 251 BBSs, Baltimore has approximately 2,932 warm user bodies per bulletin board. If these statistics held true across the continent, with a population of 254 million it would indicate there are 86,620 BBSs in the United States alone. However, we think the Baltimore area to be a bit more saturated in online activity then say Wyoming, and therefore find the 86,620 number to be a bit high.

We found the predominance of shareware BBS software programs in this city interesting. Typically, one of the big BBS software vendors tends to dominate any given area, not so in Baltimore. Almost 36 percent, or 79 of the 251 boards, are running WWIV shareware BBS software. The next most popular is another shareware program called TAG, with 17 systems, followed by Maximus - you guessed - it shareware, with 16 boards. And yes - it is definitely a 14.4 kbps world on the east coast.

Blase started keeping the list in July of 1992 when he moved to Baltimore from the D.C. area, where he always relied on the well-known, well-kept list of Mike Focke, of the Interconnect BBS, **(703)425-2505**. In a new town without the benefit of such a valuable resource as Focke's list, Blase decided to take up the torch on his own, and has been doing so ever since.

His BBSing days began in 1984 with the \$200 Comodore 64 computer and the accompanying 300 baud modem. At the time the modem came with a subscription packet for the CompuServe Information System where he spent "lots" of money before he discovered local area boards that didn't charge \$6/hour for access.

In 1987 he took a year off from his studies at the University of Maryland and purchased an IBM compatible computer and a "blazing" 2400 baud modem. By 1988, with his new computer in tow, he was back in school where one of his first projects was setting up the Sil-

ver Streak BBS running Searchlight software. He ran the board from Silver Springs, MD, a suburb of Washington, D.C., through 1991 when he graduated.

After graduating with a degree in Geology, Blase found a job in Baltimore and eventually moved there with his wife Beth in June of 1992. The Silver Streak quickly settled in to its new digs and was doing well shortly after they settled there. So well, in fact, that in January he added a second node for subscribers, because his main public line was busy most of the time. Now that he is running two lines, he finds during the peak evening hours things are still pretty busy - a good thing he has tentative plans to go to four lines by the end of the year.

As far as other additions to his board, Blase is looking forward to the next release of Searchlight's BBS software that is purported to include Internet access for boards like his. The software is slated to be out sometime in the first half of this year, and if it doesn't include the Internet access, he says he will get it on his board regardless, "one way or the other."

Since Searchlight supports RIP graphics, Blase has become an artist in his own right. Baltimore Gas and Electric heard of his talents and contracted him to do a little artistry for a project of their own. The project is a private BBS, (sorry no telephone number available), for selected industrial customers of the utility company. While the pilot program is still in its early experimental stages, it should look good anyway.

With all of the advancements coming and going in telecommunications it is hard to keep track of everything that is going on, or that will be going on. Blase sees the future of BBSs turning to real time sound and low resolution video, with voice activated systems also coming into the online fold in the next couple of years. As far as the dream of fiber optics is concerned, he sees it as just that - a dream that will have to wait awhile before it is realized. With all of the installation and hardware required, and all of the money and time it will take to accomplish a solid fiber optic network, Blase sees the stellar option of satellites entirely superseding the fiber optic cable runners.

As satellites outpace fiber optics, so does Emily Ann, Blase's 8lb. 5oz. baby daughter born January 5th, 1994 take supercede the Silver Streak. For those

who thought working through software problems and tedious modem strings took both time and patience, Blase assures that it is nothing to be a new father. There are, of course, obvious demands on a sysop that go above and beyond the norm, but the responsibility of fatherhood is much more demanding he says...and worth every smile he can get.

Up to date copies of Blase's Baltimore list can easily be found on the Silver Streak BBS, as downloading it is an option on part of the log-in procedure. For those who have difficulty logging in to this busy BBS, he will send a copy of the list to those who mail a self addressed stamped envelope to: The Silver Streak BBS, P.O.Box 70, Hunt Valley, MD 21031-0070.

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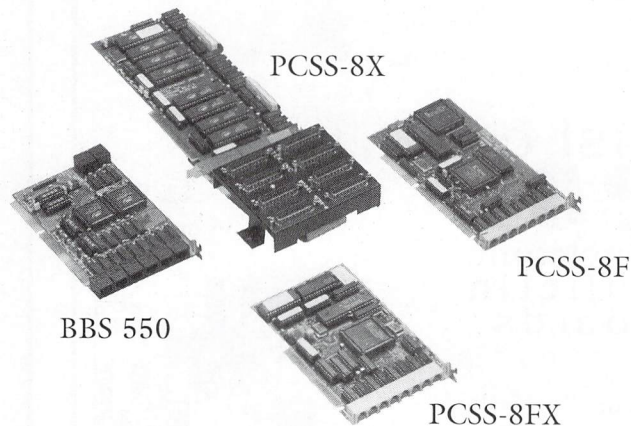
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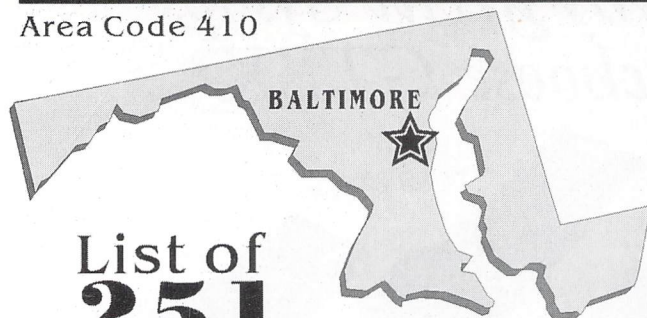
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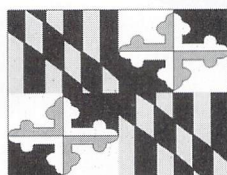
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Different Software Titles	49

MODEM SPEEDS

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21600	1
28800	4

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BARTER BOARD	410-837-1420	Tom Knowles
BAYVIEW	410-893-9881	Mark Fleming
BEGGAR'S TOMB	410-675-8985	Rick Sanders
BEYOND THE STARS	410-686-1425	Jim Smith
BLACK CROSS	410-486-9749	Adam Fistler
BLACK SUNDAY	410-529-6775	Sysop
BLACKSTAR'S PLANET	410-526-3226	Aaron Brodsky
BLAZING EAGLE	410-355-2609	Matthew F.
BODACIOUS	410-360-0123	Randy
BOOT SECTOR	410-666-3505	Kevin Sherwood
BORDERTOWN	410-876-5101	Rob Elwell
BREEZE (THE)	410-247-5044	Lou Nickles
BREEZEWAY	410-922-1201	Bill Mixer
BROADWATER	410-544-3818	Jeff Felts
BUSINESS	410-750-8594	Sysop
BYTEHEAD	410-538-4810	Eric Neifeld
CASTLE CAFE	410-821-8930	Dan Cassell
CASTLE FRETCHENSTEIN	410-684-3162	Dave Sanders
CAT'S MEOW	410-536-1912	Ron Jamison
CATONSVILLE COMM. COLLEGE	410-455-4929	Brian Cooney
CENTRAL STATION	410-315-9854	Ben Keck
CHANNEL ZERO	410-426-7737	Mike Lambricht
CHESAPEAKE FISHERMAN'S NET	410-477-3923	Sysop
CITY MORGUE	410-666-1035	Chuck Ackerman
CLARK-NET	410-995-0271	Jamie Clark
COLIN'S COMPUTER SERVICE	410-281-1344	Sysop
COLUMBIA ONLINE	410-750-1253	Sysop
COMLINK SYSTEMS	410-744-3308	Rodney Davis
COMM IV	410-747-4302	Charles Cross

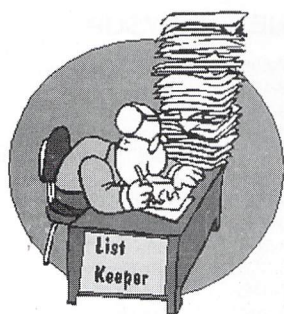
TITLE

PHONE

SYSOP

COMP-U-TYPE	410-761-1292	Jim Hamby
COMPUTOR CLUB OF MD	410-747-6809	Various/Club
CONNECTION (THE)	410-282-1381	Joseph Uzzell
CRACK HOUSE	410-592-8603	Mike C.
CRESCENDO	410-792-7791	Roger Wood
CRYPTS OF ETERNITY	410-433-1931	Garet Jax
CRYSTAL CAVE	410-391-9016	Jaynue/Kalina
CRYSTAL ICE	410-522-0989	Sysop
CULLER	410-686-7337	Bob Culler
CYBERMAC	410-668-3903	Tim Waire
CYNOSURE ONLINE	410-781-6271	Doug Granzow
DANDELION CULT COMPOUND	410-795-4987	Dan Sereducis
DAVE'S DOGHOUSE	410-256-7638	Dave Maczisz
DBMS POWER TOOLS	410-285-4032	Ed Davis
DEEP SPACE	410-875-0699	A. McCaffrey
DEGENERATIVE FEEDBACK	410-848-5416	Sysop
DEVIL'S COURIER	410-437-7017	Gregg Hammond
DEVIL'S DOORKNOB	410-442-1601	Sysop
DICE	410-747-4521	Steven Wolfe
DIGITAL EXPRESS	410-768-8774	Sysop
DIGITAL FORTRESS	410-539-1381	Barry Harting
DIGITAL ILLUSIONS	410-284-0970	Frank Burton
DIGITAL SPECTRUM	410-974-6821	Rhett Dail
DOG HOUSE	410-692-5792	Sysop
DOLLAR SAVER	410-360-0640	Bruce Shetrone
DONUT SHOP	410-922-4462	Sysop
DOPPLER BASE	410-922-1352	Dan Myers
DOUG'S DEN	410-374-4696	Doug Fisher
DOWNLOADER'S DREAM	410-315-8858	Chuck Engstrom
DRAGON'S DEN	410-592-6176	Garrett Elliott
DRUNKEN AARDVARK	410-721-1523	Andy Hollway
ECONO	410-747-3619	Mike Miller
EINSTEIN	410-922-7093	John P Lynch
ELECTRONIC EXHIBITION	410-799-5346	Brent Barnes
EMPIRE	410-679-0488	Sysop
ENDLESS QUEST	410-276-7376	James Helm
EYE OF THE STORM	410-661-2994	Randy Zimmerlee
FAIRVIEW BEACH	410-437-0779	Sysop
FALCON'S NEST	410-866-3280	Sysop
FANTAZIA PLACE II	410-521-5636	Sysop
FIFTH DIMENSION	410-653-9744	Sysop
FILE EXCHANGE	410-628-7243	Steve Cain
FILE HEAVEN	410-560-3170	Yuri Goinkberg
FIRE STATION	410-866-8613	Jim Henthorn
FISHERMAN'S COVE	410-337-0486	Michael Huggins

TITLE	PHONE	SYSOP	TITLE	PHONE	SYSOP
FLAMETHROWER	410-522-0283	Carrie Mangum	PLANET X	410-647-6954	Wayne Ward
FLESH	410-998-9677	Sysop	PLANISPHERE	410-256-1584	Sysop
FORCES UNKNOWN	410-644-5100	Sysop	PLEASURE ISLAND	410-679-6847	Ron
FRED FLINTSTONE'S CAVE	410-354-4555	Matthew Reeser	POINT OF NO RETURN	410-526-6556	Brendan Hoffman
FURNACE	410-433-1149	Fred	POOH'S CORNER BBS	410-327-9263	Mark Truelove
FUTILE MAELSTROM	410-252-8355	Sysop	POOH'S CORNER I	410-284-1158	Sysop
GARDEN OF PESTILENCE	410-549-6022	Sysop	POOH'S CORNER III	410-284-9083	Sysop
GATE (THE)	410-922-5674	Sysop	POOH'S CORNER VI	410-633-4489	Paula Rippel
GEM FIRE	410-327-6549	Kevin Schaffer	PRETZEL LOGIC	410-298-3644	Henry Shaw
GLEN BURNIE WINDOWS	410-969-1914	Gordon Ogletree	PROGRAMMER'S CORNER	410-995-6873	Gary Smith
GLOBENET PLACE	410-995-3776	Lesily Williams	PUFFIN'S NEST	410-437-3463	Dave Bealer
GOODNIGHT'S WORK	410-655-1951	Kyle Goodnight	PUNISHER'S REVENGE	410-750-2897	Mike Liscovec
GORDIAN KNOT	410-876-3337	Ron Saleker	QUANTUM	410-239-8379	Kevin Brown
GOUCHER	410-337-6392	Tim Marshall	R.A.I.N.	410-966-0690	John Rolek
GREGS CORNER	410-781-6735	Greg Armistead	RAINBOW ZEN	410-893-8255	Tom Craver
GREYHAWK	410-720-5083	Walter Ames	RAZOR'S EDGE	410-647-8334	Sysop
GRIMACE	410-544-1297	Larry Grim	REALM OF DEEP SPACE	410-525-0362	Mari Davidson
GRIMM'S HOLLOW	410-788-8908	Sysop	RENDEZVOUS	410-876-5029	Kathy Jones
HARBOR BYTES	410-235-6753	Sysop	RENEGADE'S	410-325-2860	Sysop
HARVESTER NETWORK	410-828-4572	Sysop	RISING FORCE AMIGA	410-574-3770	Sysop
HELLFIRE CLUB	410-239-7528	Sysop	ROBIN'S NEST	410-766-9756	Robin
HOTLINE	410-882-6191	Mark S.	ROCKLAND COMPUTER SERVICES	410-750-6403	Jim Reske
HOUSE OF ABBADON	410-483-1271	Steve Ashley	RON'S ROOM	410-969-2241	Ronald Egolf
HOUSE OF AMON	410-683-0611	Dale MaMarche	ROSEDALE DATA LINE	410-866-4554	Gordon Malone
INNER LIMITS	410-356-5112	Sysop	S&R SOFTWARE	410-628-2324	Bob Parkinson
IRON SKULL	410-744-1363	Sysop	SATAN'S DEN	410-465-6493	Keith Geffert
JACK'S BASEMENT	410-788-5794	Jack M.	SHAREWARE EXCHANGE	410-391-1088	Lionel Tharle
JOHN'S	410-566-1336	John Radford	SILICON DRAGON	410-987-4563	Sysop
KAISEN ONLINE	410-995-3600	Sysop	SILVER STREAK	410-683-1583	Brad Blase
KEEPING ROOM	410-276-0658	Anne Madison	SIN BIN	410-796-0819	Todd Wilson
KING SOLOMON'S MINE	410-494-1533	John Herold	SMORGASBOARD	410-823-1932	Sysop
KINGDOM OF VOMERIA	410-461-4590	Tom Lamp	SOFTWARE ETC.	410-551-9392	Warren Fuller
LAW LINE	410-561-0789	Steve Hecker	SONIC MELTDOWN	410-426-8748	Jack Morgan
LIBERTY HALL	410-833-8933	Bob Rudolph	SPASTIC TOILET	410-381-7924	Joe Murray
LIGHTNING ROD	410-628-2693	Sysop	SPEARPOINT III	410-889-2729	Aaron Seigel
LINOCOMM	410-426-9359	Brian Bernacki	STEEL TALON	410-461-0519	Bryan Chant
LOCK-N-LOAD	410-278-9921	Andy Friesner	STRIKE FORCE	410-747-8154	Sysop
LOGIC BOARD	410-756-2193	Dan Holoski	STRONGHOLD	410-296-5580	Sysop
LOOSE ENDS	410-683-1393	Gregg Bowser	SUBCOMM SYSTEMS	410-284-0565	Dave Fares
LOPEZVILLE	410-592-2568	Paul Lopez	SUICIDAL CHICKEN	410-653-4673	Brian Wohlmuth
MAGAZINE STOP	410-781-4250	Neal Heaton	SVEN'S PALACE OF PLEASURE	410-628-7530	Ben Sparks
MAPS-NET	410-239-4247	Charles Davis	SYNCPPOINT	410-529-2584	Bob Gawryck
MARYLAND CATHOLIC	410-997-5262	Mike O'Donnell	TABOO	410-889-6062	Jim Bush
MARYLAND GATEWAY	410-730-5624	Bitterli	TACNA	410-628-1605	Jean-P. Martinez
MARYLAND MED-SIG	410-332-7386	Jerry Oster	TALES OF WIZARDS AND WARRIORS	410-284-2378	Sysop
MARYLAND PILOT	410-357-8132	Skip Langley	TECH NOIR	410-859-0974	Sysop
MASONIC QUIZBOARD	410-760-6238	Stanley Conyer	TECHWORLD	410-455-0755	Sysop
MATCHPICK CLUB	410-685-0790	Wayne Nestor	TERMINAL ADDICTION	410-527-9549	Mark Barnett
MD STATE F.O.P. LODGE	410-987-2616	Chuck Sims	THIRD EYE	410-255-4006	Mitch Titus
MD STATE FIREMAN'S ASSOC.	410-536-1935	Richard Snader	TIAMAT'S LAIR	410-665-1074	Mike Edenfield
MDTA	410-288-8469	John Higgins	TIDAL WAVE	410-323-3152	Paul Mullan
MEDIA 2000	410-360-1356	Sysop	TIGGER'S LAIR	410-256-3226	David Timmins
METRONET	410-720-5506	Brian Carner	TILT!	410-521-4808	Steve Sunday
MICROLINE	410-922-3843	Sysop	TIME GONE BY	410-566-3742	Joseph Wilfong
MICROPROSE	410-785-1841	Quentin Chaney	TIME MACHINE	410-477-1624	Jack Pennington
MIDNIGHT WINDOWS	410-280-6387	Chip Alexander	TONY'S TREASURE CHEST	410-485-8178	Tony Patti
MIRAGE MECCA	410-426-5097	Mike Meckel	TOWN CENTER INFO. EXCHANGE	410-995-1809	Bob Martin
MISCELLANEOUS DEBRIS	410-788-4074	Sysop	TRILOGY NURSING & HEALTH	410-880-0965	Duane Rutan
MISSING PLANET	410-788-8595	Sysop	TRINOUT	410-247-6266	L. Widiowski
MODEM DOCTOR	410-256-3631	Hank Volpe	UNDER THE STAIRS	410-360-6968	David Kilroy
MODEM READY	410-360-8007	Gerald Todd	UNDERGROUND	410-760-2137	Angie
MONSOON	410-235-2365	Sunil Gupta	UNDERGROUND ICE KINGDOM	410-823-4125	Sysop
MUSIC EXPRESS	410-343-0695	Tim Brewer	UNDERGROUND WAREHOUSE	410-667-9224	Sysop
NERVE CENTER	410-655-4708	Alan Hess	UNIQUE ONLINE SERVICES	410-796-7951	Thomas Winn
NEXUS POINT	410-761-1828	Jason Arnold	UNIVERSAL MIND	410-561-5061	Sysop
NFB NET	410-752-5011	Dave Andrews	UNIVERSAL PARADOX	410-363-6881	Sysop
NIGHT MOVES	410-360-7599	Randy Bowers	UNKNOWN	410-682-4864	Sysop
NORTH STAR	410-974-9305	David Hickey	VIRTUAL REALITY	410-529-5120	Sysop
NORTHERN STAR	410-876-9112	Sysop	VISUAL XTREME	410-747-3980	Sysop
NUCLEAR GENOCIDE	410-284-1066	Glenn Hartman	VOMIT LAUNCH	410-437-2894	Robert Riebau
ONLINE ARCHIVES	410-875-0399	Rick Wall	VORTEX	410-284-2879	Sysop
OTHER PLACE - SYSTEM 1	410-461-0761	C. Klausmeyer	WARHAMMER	410-795-9357	Wesley Griffin
OTHER PLACE - SYSTEM 2	410-799-1131	Sysop	WATERFRONT EAST	410-687-6890	Mike McCullough
OUTLANDS	410-551-4643	John Bartley	WCUG	410-544-8729	Sysop
OUTSIDE THE WALL	410-665-1855	Rob Novak	WEATHER STATION	410-882-8887	Mark Hoffman
PALACE OF THE GODS	410-252-3816	Sysop	WHITE HOUSE	410-850-0871	Michael Jewell
PALADINE'S HAVEN	410-882-9052	James Hoffmann	WHUNK	410-357-4950	Che Carton
PARALLEL UNIVERSE	410-788-2366	John Bafford	WISHBRINGER	410-269-6607	Sysop
PERRYHALL	410-529-1822	Jim Chmielewski	WIT-TECH	410-256-0170	Doug Wittich
PHOTOSHOP	410-720-6317	Sysop	WRIGHT PLACE	410-882-4481	Ron Wright
PIRATES COVE	410-282-6837	Sysop			



BOARDWATCH

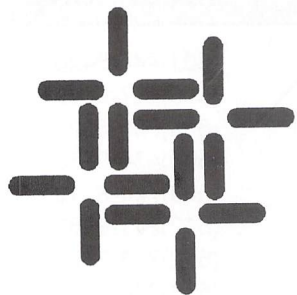
List of BBS List Keepers

This listing comprises a list of those who compile and maintain lists of bulletin boards, either by topical category, or by some geographic area or definition - often by area code. The primary bulletin board system where the list can be downloaded electronically is also included.



BBSLIST TOPIC	AUTHOR/EDITOR	CONTACT BBS	TELEPHONE
Republic of South Africa	Henk Wolsink	Catalyst BBS	(041)34-1122
Connecticut AC 203	Kevin Brook	Creative Edge BBS	(203)743-4044
BBS With Handicapped Focus	Bill McGarry	Handicap News BBS	(203)926-6168
Seattle AC 206/West Washington	Bob Dinse/Nanook	Eskimo North	(206)367-3837
Tacoma Washington AC 206	Richard Langsford	AmoCat BBS	(206)566-1155
Kitsap County Washington	Michael Schuyler	Quicksilver BBS	(206)780-2011
Maine 207	Scott R. Bodeen	Street Corner BBS	(207)442-0997
Central California AC 209	Jack Porter/Madera UG	Zen Den Systems	(209)675-8436
Graphical User Interface BBS	David Shapiro	The Gooley (GUI) BBS	(212)876-5885
96 List - 9600+bps BBS	Ken Sukimoto	Downtown BBS	(213)484-0260
Open Access UNIX Site List	Phil Eschallier	LGNP1 (login:BBS)	(215)348-9727
Pennsylvania AC 215/609/302	Ron Brandt	DSC/VOICENET	(215)443-9434
Cleveland Area 216	Jim Barry	Flip Flop	(216)951-9134
Champaign-Urbana IL AC 217	Eddie Thomson	The Dungeon BBS	(217)355-1214
Conservation/Nature BBS List	D.Wendling/JS Christianso	Coin of the Realm	(301)585-6697
Ham/Amateur Radio BBS	Stan Staten	3WINKs BBS	(301)590-9629
Handicapped Issues BBS	Richard Barth	HEX BBS	(301)593-7357
Desktop Publishing BBS	Frank Atlee	Infinite Perspective	(301)924-0398
Delaware AC 302	Vince Boehm/Dave Osburn	Talk Radio BBS	(302)429-7667
Medical Issues BBS	Edward Del Grosso	Black Bag	(302)994-3772
Colorado AC 303/719	Willis Morrow	Big Boy's BBS	(303)458-3832
Cave Exploration BBSs	Douglas L. Moore II	The CatEye BBS	(304)592-3390
South Florida Area 305/407	Eric Thav	Silicon Beach BBS	(305)474-6512
Southern California	Mike Hefferman	SOCAL Corner	(310)422-7942
California AC 310	Jim Walton	Illusions BBS	(310)804-3324
Detroit Area 313	Horst Mann	Tony's Corner	(313)754-1131
St. Louis AC 314	Beth Brooks	Fire Escape's Dir	(314)741-9505
ASP BBS Member List	Richard Holler	The RoadHouse BBS	(317)784-2147
Engineering Related BBS	Arthur Petrzalka	Computer Plumber	(319)337-6723
Rhode Island Area 401	Mike Labbe	Eagle's Nest	(401)732-5292
Alberta AC 403	Stephen Decarie	T-8000	(403)246-4487
Calgary Alberta AC 403	Jose del Rio	The Quantum BBS	(403)252-5119
Atlanta Area 404	Online Atlanta Society	OASIS	(404)627-2662
Atlanta Area 404	Rodney Aloia	The INDEX System	(404)924-8472
Montana Area	Jay Michalik	Valley Light BBS	(406)273-6399
Orlando Florida AC 407	Matt Drury	London BBS	(407)895-1335
San Francisco Bay Area	Mark Shapiro	BABBA BBS	(408)946-5642
Baltimore BBS Area 410	Brad Blase	Silver Streak BBS	(410)683-1583
Pittsburgh AC 412	Chas Stokes	Zuul's Catacombs	(412)264-9787
National BBS List	DP McIntire/Beth Spotts	Ameriboard	(412)349-6862
North America Nudist List	Patrick O'Brien	Natural Connection	(414)426-2110
Ontario AC 416	Jeff Young	Tradewinds BBS	(416)503-4388
Toledo Ohio Area	Ryck Zarick	Programmer's Tech	(419)478-7333

BBSLIST TOPIC	AUTHOR/EDITOR	CONTACT BBS	TELEPHONE
Arkansas Area 501	Bob Underdown	The Blue & The Grey	(501)444-8420
Portland Oregon BBS	Lisa Gronke	DawGone Disgusted	(503)297-9145
New Orleans BBS List	Jeff Jones	Southern Star BBS	(504)885-5928
New Mexico Area Code (505)	Dan Kiehl	MDC Computers BBS	(505)434-0258
Worcester MA AC (508)	Jim Metzler	Miwok Village BBS	(508)754-6512
Corpus Christi	James Cordani	Treasure Island	(512)241-8358
Austin Area BBS List AC 512	John Foster	Camel's Back BBS	(512)243-0077
Selected BBS	Joseph Caplinger & Son	J&J's BBS	(513)236-1229
List of Gay/Lesbian BBS	Eric Blair	S-TEK BBS	(514)597-2409
AC 516 Free Shareware BBS	Harold Stein	Long Island Exchange	(516)271-5303
Area Code 517 - Mid-Michigan	Rick Rosinski/SAMM	Wolverine BBS	(517)695-9952
Business/Professional BBS	Dennis Hauser	Delight The Customer	(517)797-3740
Phoenix AC (602)	John Mendivil	Majestic Royalty BBS	(602)278-1651
Phoenix AC (602)	Sue Widemark	Cheese Whiz BBS	(602)279-0793
Cochise County Arizona	Kevin McCrory	The Commo Shack BBS	(602)452-0587
Kentucky AC (606)	Jon Hagee	Kentucky Explorer	(606)271-1451
Wisconsin 608	Jim Wargula	JW-PC Dataflex.HST	(608)837-1923
New Jersey AC 609	Dave Schubert	The Casino BBS	(609)485-2380
New Jersey Area 201/609/908	Wayne R. Morton	Praedo BBS	(609)953-0769
Minnesota Twin Cities AC 612	Barry Watson	Abiogenetic BBS	(612)774-8454
Apple II BBS	Mike Shecket	Way Out	(614)436-4846
Tennessee AC 615/901	unknown	SPDA Info Service	(615)952-5638
San Diego, CA AC 619	Tom Grigg	ComputerEdge	(619)573-1675
San Diego AC 619	Joe Nicholson	General Alarm	(619)669-0385
Apple II BBS with Internet con	Morgan Davis	pro-sol	(619)670-5379
Virginia AC 703/804	Eddie Gebhard	PC Power House	(703)348-1423
OS/2 BBS Systems	Pete Norloff	OS2/Shareware BBS	(703)385-4325
Washington DC BBS List	Mike Focke	Interconnect	(703)425-2505
Genealogy Related BBS	Richard A. Pence	NGS-CIG	(703)528-2612
Charlotte, NC AC 704	Blaine Schmidt	Moobasi Optics, Ink	(704)541-9842
Charlotte NC AC 704	Blaine Schmidt	Moobasi Optics, Ink	(704)541-9842
Black Run/Oriented BBS	Arthur "Rambo" McGee	BDPA BAC BBS	(707)552-3314
Chicago	Paul Chartraw	The Hideaway BBS	(708)748-1911
Airline Pilot/JUMPSEAT BBSs	Rex Chadwell	ChicAAgo Hangar	(708)980-1613
Houston Area 713	David E. Wachenschwanz	Atomic Cafe BBS	(713)530-8875
Rochester NY AC 716	Tracy Logan	Logan's Run	(716)328-2914
Ecology/Conservation BBS	Bob Chapman	EarthArt BBS	(803)552-4389
Firearms Related bbs	Jerry Brunet	Neon Nights	(804)588-4978
Wildcat! BBS	Jim Harrer	Wildcat! HQ	(805)395-0650
Central California Area 805	Larry Honore	His Board	(805)652-1478
Oahu Hawaii	Brent Davis	Land's End BBS	(808)499-2527
Technical Support BBS List	Gary Barr	Digicom BBS	(812)479-1310
Pinellas/Tampa Florida AC 813	Emery Mandel	Mercury Opus	(813)321-0734
Kansas City Area 816/913	Roy Timberman	Sound Advice	(816)436-4516
Dallas/Ft Worth Area 214/817	Mark Robbins	Second Sanctum	(817)784-1178
Occult BBS	Phil Hansford	Mysteria	(818)353-8891
Commodore 64/128/Amiga BBS	John Rigali	Night Gallery	(818)448-8529
Alaska AC 907	Patti Johnson	Alaska Pirate Soc.	(907)248-9364
Darwin National USBBS List	Bob Breedlove	Bob's BBS	(916)929-7511
OS/2 Related BBS	Dave Fisher	LiveNet 1:170/110	(918)481-5715
Tulsa Oklahoma Area BBS List	Linda Hargraves	ACCESS AMERICA	(918)747-2542
Raleigh NC Area Code 919	Mike Stroud	Micro Message Svc.	(919)779-6674
Switzerland BBS List	Cesar Keller	The Warehouse BBS	14-11-492-5157
U.S.S.R. BBS List	Serge Terekhov	Court Crimson King	7-3832-356722



Internet Society

Mail or Fax this application to:

The Internet Society
12020 Sunrise Valley Dr
Suite 270
Reston, VA 22091

Voice (703)648-9888
Fax: (703)648-9887

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the only international professional society whose focus is to facilitate, support, and promote the evolution and growth of the Internet as a global research communications infrastructure. The Society exists to serve the interests of individuals, corporations, government, educators, and researchers.

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Fairfax, VA 22031

Bank ABA Number: 056001260
Account Number: Internet Society
14838710

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Virginia Connection (703)648-1841 Washington, DC metro since 01/85. Sysop: Tony McCleny. Using PCBoard 15.0 with 20 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 1000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. No fee. Largest Washington, DC metro PCBoard, online since 1985, 20 V.32BIS modems, 1000 conferences, FidoNet, RIME, iLink, SmartNet, MetroLink, 80,000 files on a 10 gigabyte system, FREE access with subscriptionstions available.

Classic Car Highway (703)707-2054 Reston, Virginia since 12/93. Sysop: Greg Pursifull. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 2 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 250 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$75 Annual fee. 3 Months free - no obligation. Collector cars, parts, and information online. Very knowledgeable user group. Dealer inventories welcome.

POPULUS II (706)569-0773 Columbus, Georgia since 05/93. Sysop: David McAfee. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 2 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 600 MB storage. TWINCOM at 38400 bps. No fee. Windows, Programmer's Support, C++, Object-oriented Programming, Flash games, On-Line Chat, CD-ROM's, Programming Available. FIDO, Local messaging, and pay service INTERNET.

The Party Line BBS (707)588-8055 Rohnert Park, California since 12/85. Sysop: Jami Chism. Using MajorBBS 6.2 with 8 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 4800 MB storage. Practical Peripheral at 14400 bps. \$10 Monthly fee. Internet Email, USENET Newsgroups, R!P Graphics, Nationwide Interlink Chat, PC Catalog, Newsbytes, Multi-Player Tradewars 2002, 6 Recent CD Roms, FREE Trial! For information via Internet email: jami@partyline.com MajorNet email: sysop@xcl

The Outer Limits BBS (708)289-0034 Chicago, Illinois since 05/92. Sysop: Mistress Crystal. Using Synchronet with 12 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 3000 MB storage. Various at 14400 bps. \$20 Quarterly fee. The Midwest's Best D/s, B/D & Fetish On-line Play Party! "Fantasy handles", chat, games, conferences, contests, Adultnet, and 3GB of files make us the board to explore your fantasies and play! Women free, plus no harassment policy. Visa/MC. 21+ only.

Caer Tuatha (708)393-7750 Warrenville, Illinois since 12/93. Sysop: Gwydion. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 4 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 120 MB storage. Cardinal at 2400 bps. \$30.00 Annual fee. Exploring the Unknown; Strange and Unexplained Phenomena, the Mystical and the Mythical. As your Gateway to the Unknown, Caer Tuatha invites you to take a peek into that fascinating world that lies just beyond the fringes of the imagination!

MidWest BBS (708)513-1034 St. Charles, Illinois since 02/84. Sysop: Steve Mills. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 8 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 4100 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. \$45 Annual fee. America's Professional Bulletin Board. Experienced, friendly SysOps whose only goal is TOTAL USER SATISFACTION. Tons of new files each wk. Free trial membership. PC-Catalog. All nodes up to 14,400 llink member, Internet Mail, Usenet, UsMail

PitStar BBS (708)687-4413 Oak Forest, Illinois since 01/92. Sysop: Pady Smith. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 4 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 2000 MB storage. Intel at 14400 bps. \$25-90 Annual fee. Multi-purpose BBS with a business and finance flavor. Stock, Commodities quotes, Usenet, Internet Email, GIFs of missing children, current weather reports, 100+ file directories.

COM ONE (708)717-9370 Naperville, Illinois since 05/92. Sysop: Craig Wells. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 8 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 6000 MB storage. Incomm at 2400 bps. \$9 Variable fee. Over 60,000 of the most current files with new files daily. 9 cds online, Over 200 MajorNet Forums & Int'l MajorNet Registry. Adult Forums & Files. Entertaining games & Trivia. The Meeting Place Registry. Free Internet email & newsgroups. Free Demo Time.

Chicago Syslink (708)795-4442 Berwyn, Illinois since 06/81. Sysop: George Matyaszek. Using TBBS 2.2 with 12 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 1000 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. \$30 Annual fee. Rated G, so the entire family can call. We offer a new CD-ROM online every week. 100+ games & chat. Magazines like BBR, Hi-TECH Home, Genesis News Service keep you informed. OutDial To Other BBS's & Internet E-mail keep you in touch! Something for All.

AlphaOne Online (708)827-3619 Park Ridge, Illinois since 03/90. Sysop: Toby & Gloria. Using TBBS 2.2 with 18 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 8500 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. \$36-75 Annual fee. You've seen the rest-now try the BEST! 100,000+ Files. Online stores. CHAT, matchmakers, adult games 150+ conferences. Fidonet, Adult Link, GayCom. Get the most for your online \$! CALL & mention this ad for FREE TRIAL. For more info voice-708-827-3615

TRAVEL ONLINE RECREATION INFO SYSTEM (708)830-4BBS Hanover Park, Illinois since 09/93. Sysop: Brian Hinkelman. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 2 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 235 MB storage. Computer Peripherals at 14400 bps. No fee. System dedicated to recreation & travel, specializing on Illinois & Colorado. Biking, Camping, Hiking, Scenic Drives, Skiing, including Current Events, Night Life, Weather, Ski Reports, Accommodations, Restaurants, MUCH MORE! Easy Searching, FULL RIP.

The Computer Brokers Online (708)898-2964 St. Charles, Illinois since 01/94. Sysop: Mike McCarty. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 4 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 5000 MB storage. US Robotics at 9600 bps. No fee. Customer technical support features. ONLINE SHOPPING MALL 24 HOUR ACCESS TO ORDER OR BROWSE OUR PRODUCTS. Hardware, software you name it we have it, or can get it. Order Products or request quotes. Check out our prices!

THE WILD ONION! (708)993-0461 Elmhurst, Illinois since 05/93. Sysop: ALT@ONION.COM. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 32 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 9000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$10 variable fee. Chicago area's premier all adult social BBS. Chat, local Forums and 20+ games. 60,000+ files and GIFs online. Large Adult Forums area. INTERNET NEWS and mail. MAJORLINK and WORLDLINK. PC Pursuit thru ILCHI. FREE INTRODUCTORY ACCOUNT!

H-M-M-M (713)342-6561 Fort Bend County, Texas since 03/94. Sysop: Arthur. Using Spitfire 3.3 with 1 line on MS-DOS 80386 with 120 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. No fee. The MISSING Endless Book.

Data Warp Premium Computer Systems (713)355-6107 Houston, Texas since 07/88. Sysop: Mike Meyer. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 5 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 2500 MB storage. US Robotics at 38400 bps. \$20 Quarterly fee. One of Houston's largest general interest BBS systems. Thousands of files, dozens more posted daily. Hundreds of message conferences, including Usenet newsgroups, Internet email @dwarpc.com, lLink and Annex networks. Adult areas available. Free or fee.

The Ragged Edge BBS (713)660-8920 Houston, Texas since 02/94. Sysop: Eric Moeller. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 3 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 500 MB storage. Supra at 14400 bps. \$12.99 Monthly fee. Files including CD-ROM online, chat, RIP graphics, games, and FAX online. There is a monthly giveaway of a one month subscription just by registering account with our BBS. No rations! Come on the cutting edge, The Ragged Edge BBS.

Archives BBS (713)896-1721 Houston, Texas since 02/93. Sysop: Felix Dartmouth. Using SynchroNet 1c with 3 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 2000 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$30 Half Year fee. Internet Email, UseNET, Adult UseNET, New files daily, QWK, RIP, Hayes V.FC, Original Adult images, Quality Service.

The Viewlink BBS (714)650-4612 Costa Mesa, California since 10/92. Sysop: Terry Andrews. Using WildCat 3.9 with 4 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 200 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$10 36 days fee. Latest shareware, hottest adult GIFs, temp jobs. Rush Lilnbaugh fan club. Chat mode for all anytime. 28 cents per hour. *.FIF fractal compression files coming soon, I hope. Login for more info.

The Solar System (714)837-9677 Mission Viejo, California since 12/88. Sysop: Peter Guethlein. Using WildCat 3.9 with 6 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 15000 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. No fee. Awesome ANSI & RIP Graphics, Fidonet 1:103/957, Internet, Intelec, MetroLink Echomail & More! Space Theme, Over 90 Live Door Games, Very Unique High Quality BBS, FREE access available, Support Board: B-CRC Upload File Duplication Scanner.

Real Estate Online (714)969-9624 Huntington Beach, California since 08/93. Sysop: Doug Campbell. Using MajorBBS 6.11 with 14 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 500 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. No fee. 24hrs, Real Estate Info, Chat, Games and MajorNet MailLink (over 200 Newsgroups)

THE PROMISED LAND (715)387-1339 Marshfield, Wisconsin since 01/90. Sysop: Tim Brown. Using Custom 1 with 32 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 20000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$30 hourly fee. Support BBS for NATIONAL SHAREWARE LIBRARY (tm) national archive of shareware, freeware, public domain software. Download or freq ARS FREE access program. RIP, live national teleconferences, 100+ forums, FREE DEMOPAK upon verification. Fido:1:238/500

Cyberia (717)840-1444 York, Pennsylvania since 06/93. Sysop: Adam Viener. Using TBBS 2.2M with 9+ lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 3300 MB storage. US Robotics at 16800 bps. \$7 Monthly fee. Receive INTERNET mail for FREE! Cyberia is a full featured system which includes USA Today news, Boardwatch, PC Catalog, Chat, Games, Top 10 Downloadable Shareware, Internet, Fidonet, Full RIP Graphics support, and all users get FREE trial accounts

PARADISE NETWORK BBS (718)241-9007 Brooklyn, New York since 06/89. Sysop: Luc'e. Using Custom 1.0 with 17 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 1345 MB storage. Supra at 2400 bps. \$30 Annual fee. New York's Largest Adult BBS. Hundreds of singles & couples looking to chat, exchange mail, and meet! X-rated GIFS and animations. High female to male ratio. Free two week trial. 9600 v.32 (718) 241-9049. All adult, must be 21. Credit cards accepted.

Rama One BBS (718)366-6165 Queens, New York since 01/94. Sysop: Tommy Brunning. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 2 lines on 80486 with 3500 MB storage. Gateway at 14400 bps. \$50 Hourly fee. Free Downloads on First Call! Full Featured Multiline System! 1000's of Quality Hi-Rez GIFs! Online Games, Forums and <ASP> Shareware! Free MajorNet Email Address (@R1C) Membership Upgrade via 900 Number! Friendly Dedicated Staff that's <ASP> Approved!

The Tower Of High Sorcery BBS (718)369-2481 Brooklyn, New York since 08/93. Sysop: Evelio C. Borges. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 10 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 9000 MB storage. US Robotics at 38400 bps. \$45 Annual fee. Three Systems in One! Tower, TeenLINK!, & MegaBITE Online. Over 9000MB of all files for DOS, MAC, OS/2 & Unix. Get THE best for LESS! Over 200 forums, Usenet, NetAccess, Soon Majornet & WorldLINK! Subscribers get all unlimited. Lots of FREE demo time. w/

Alternative Visions BBS (718)746-6800 New York City, New York since 06/93. Sysop: Thomas. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 8 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 500 MB storage. Intel at 14400 bps. \$45 Half Year fee. Live Online Chat, Erotic Message Bases, Personals & Classifieds, Online MatchMaker, Hot XXX Graphics, Online Shopping Mall. Come play! An adult contact board.

The Icebox BBS (718)793-8548 New York since 04/88. Sysop: Darren Klein. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 5 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 2700 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$25 Annual fee. There are hundreds of conferences and SIG's available. Huge file section. ASP approved. Many online games. CHAT live with other users. Many mail networks available, including RIME and INTELEC. QWK/REP mail door for reading your E-MAIL offline.

The Northern World BBS (718)987-8786 Staten Island, New York since 08/93. Sysop: Allen Kaplun. Using MajorBBS 6.12 with 6 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 90600 MB storage. Zoltrix at 14400 bps. \$50 Hourly fee. 50,000+ files, Live CHAT!, 200+ libraries, over 200+ National and International message bases, TONS of online games, online FAX center, MajorNet, Polls and questionnaires, Something for EVERYONE! FREE Trial access! Only 50 cents per hour! VISA/MC.

THE VACATION SOURCE (800)868-7555 Littleton, Colorado since 02/94. Sysop: Mike Dila-tush. Using TBBS 5.02 with 1 line on MS-DOS 80386 with 250 MB storage. GVC at 14400 bps. No fee. Planning a vacation in Colorado? You need this BBS! All the addresses & phone numbers that matter: lodging, ballooning, rafting, elk hunting, Broncos, the Denver Mint, Aspen, Vail, Central City, golfing, dinosaurs, hunting, hiking, gold panning...and more!

Nuttin' Fancy BBS (804)239-5434 Lynchburg, Virginia since 08/93. Sysop: Jeff Washburn. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 3 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 5000 MB storage. Hayes at 28.8 bps. \$35.00 Annual fee. Over 5 Gigabytes of Online Files. All phone lines roll over. Fidonet and Intelc Message Network Member. Official Apogee Software Distribution Point. ASP Approved Member BBS. 1 Free week of BBS usage when New. Mention this ad to get \$5 off a subscription

The Serial Port (810)286-0145 Clinton Township, Michigan since 03/82. Sysop: Stu Jackson. Using TBBS 2.2 with 9 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 7500 MB storage. ZyxEL at 16.8 bps. \$45 Annual fee. C'mon by for a chat and a few files. THOUSANDS of Files with Adult sections available. Many online games. Call today for a FREE look around, or Download our entire file list for your proofing at a later time. Visa MC Discover Welcome for INSTANT Upgrade.

Mercury Opus (813)321-0734 St. Petersburg, Florida since 09/88. Sysop: Emery Mandel. Using PCBoard 15 with 10 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 12000 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. \$30 Half Year fee. HUGE message area, over 1500 conferences, 100,000 quality Amiga, Mac, DOS, Windows, OS/2 and adult files with new files daily, 10+ networks including Internet and Usenet, games, chat, matchmaker, fax gateway, BBS lists, instant access via credit card.

Inner Sanctum BBS (813)848-6055 New Port Richey, Florida since 03/85. Sysop: Rob Marlowe. Using TBBS 2.2 with 6 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 5200 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. \$25 - \$50 /yr fee. Pinellas County Access number (813) 934-5533. Online games, huge file library, online chat. FidoNet. Look around for free. Give us a call and check us out.

The Emporium BBS! (817)543-4250 Arlington, Texas since 10/88. Sysop: Henry Buchanan. Using Remote Access 2.0 with 20 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 6000 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. \$75 Annual fee. One of the largest collections of adult files! Over 17,000 adult files online. Adult games online, with online chat and messages! ADULTS only! Must be 21 years of age or older! Immediate adult access w/valid credit card - VISA, Mastercard, Discover, AMEX

Panasia BBS (818)569-3740 Glendale, California since 05/89. Sysop: William Padilla. Using PCBoard 15.0 with 1 line on MS-DOS 80386 with 50 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$20 Annual fee. We offer Internet e-mail access, carry all ILink conferences, and feature ThrobNet adult conferences. Several awesome strategic door games are available. Modest but high quality file area. System can be demo'd by logging on as TEST DRIVE (pw: PANASIA)

The Wine Connection BBS (818)718-5994 Winnetka, California since 11/93. Sysop: Paul Sennett. Using TBBS 2.2 with 5 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 250 MB storage. ZOOM at 14400 bps. No fee. Your Best Connection for Fine Wine! Communicate with other Wine Enthusiasts about Fine Wines you want to Buy or Sell and also about many other Wine Topics. Glossary of Wine Terms, Grape Varieties, California's Premium Wineries, and much more!!!

CPI BBS (818)858-5730 Covina, California since 04/92. Sysop: Mark Bishop. Using TBBS 2.2 with 5 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 330 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. \$1.2 Hourly fee. FREE TRIAL! Fidonet (1:102/255) Nationwide Mail and Echo Conferences. Classifieds. Online Games and Chat. Home of Virus Informer Newsletter. IBM, Windows, Adult GIFs libraries. USAToday online. 900 service for INSTANT ACCESS, VISA, MC, AMEX.

KBBS Los Angeles (818)886-0872 Beverly Hills, California since 09/88. Sysop: Dale. Using MajorBBS 6.20 with 68 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 10000 MB storage. Hayes at 14400 bps. \$9.50+ Monthly fee. The largest 21 and over BBS in the West. Tradewars 2002, Erotica, and other games online. Nation-wide Chatlink & WorldLink all evening, EVERY evening. Over 6,000 members, InterNet, and MajorNet via Satellite. Free Trial.

The Ledge PCBoard (818)896-2007 Lake View Terrace, California since 01/87. Sysop: Joseph Sheppard. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 3 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 2000 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. \$40 Annual fee. Home of the U'NI-net Echomail Network. Free Internet Email address with subscription. Home of TextView, BBSList, DDoor, ATSend, DayBat and other programs. All lines answered by 486-SX or better and 21.6K USR Dual Standards. PC-Catalog!

The Never Enough BBS (908)862-0631 Linden, New Jersey since 02/94. Sysop: Mike Demkowicz. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 1 line on MS-DOS 80386 with 700 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. No fee. First 50 callers get a free 6 months Patron membership with no obligation to upload files. The Never Enough BBS has files, message areas, doors, games, CD-ROM files, conference areas, an ADULT conference with GIF pictures and RIPscrip graphics. MegNET!

Bits and Bytes BBS (909)356-4636 Fontana, California since 09/91. Sysop: Barly Redsar. Using PCBoard V15.1 with 7 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 9000 MB storage. US Robotics at 21600 bps. \$43 Annual fee. BEST BBS around! You do not believe us? Well call and find out for yourself! How can you go wrong? Over 55000 files online (every week we have 500 new files), 60 Door games, 700 conferences (RIME, U'NI, Rosenet, & Throbnet). Large ADULT ONLY GIFs.

NightVision (909)369-6556 Riverside, California since 11/93. Sysop: John Williams. Using WildCat 3.90 with 8 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 8000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$69 Annual fee. FREE Memberships Available! Call For Details. Monthly Amateur GIF Contests, Internet E-Mail and News Groups, Massive Library of Adult GIF's and Text Files, Group and Private Chat, On-Line Games, Adult Networks, Matchmaker Database.

Legend Graphics OnLine (909)689-9229 Riverside, California since 11/91. Sysop: Joey Marquez. Using PCBoard 15 with 12 lines on LAN Network 80486s with 6000 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. \$5 Monthly fee. Nation's One Stop Graphics BBS! You will be impressed! Huge Adults Only File Areas! Simply the BEST in Southern California! SuperVGA Photo Images, Video in Motion MoviePICs! Visa MC Am-Exp Optima accepted.

The Backdoor TBBS (910)350-8061 Wilmington, North Carolina since 05/92. Sysop: Thomas Bradford. Using TBBS 2.2 with 11 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 12920 MB storage. Hayes at 28800 bps. No fee. USA Registration site for Terminate terminal program. Visa, Mastercard accepted online for Terminate and BBS registrations. 19 CD Roms, FamilyNet, FidoNet SurvivalNet Networks, QWK mail, over 35 games, Online fax, Internet mail and much more.

The Erotic Shopping Network (913)780-0005 Olathe, Kansas since 04/93. Sysop: Dave McVey. Using MajorBBS 6.1 with 3 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 485 MB storage. Zoom at 9600 bps. No fee. The first BBS of its kind in the U.S. On-line Adult shopping system featuring XXX videos, exciting lingerie, massage oils and lotions, condoms, marital aids and adult novelties. Catalogs available in hardcopy. MC, VISA welcome. Must be 18 or over.

The Ready Room (914)627-6901 Nanuet, New York since 01/94. Sysop: Tom Filepp. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 2 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 1000 MB storage. Digicom at 14400 bps. \$1.00 Monthly fee. One of Rockland's best BB-Ses. Download on first call. Fishnet, home of the Gatenet. New York Area Weather Online. Friendly users and great chat. Sysops call for info on joining GateNet.

ExecNet (914)667-4567 Mount Vernon, New York since 11/85. Sysop: Andy Keeves. Using PCBoard 15.0 with 20 lines on MS-DOS 80386 with 14000 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. \$Fee Flexible fee. Bringing you the world. Free online eval. time. 8 hrs/call, up to 32MB download/call. 90K+ files, 4K Int'l confs., Usenet/Internet, Immediate access with major credit card, Fantasy Area. Email to/from CompuServe, MCI. 10MB+ new files daily.

Toto's Playhouse BBS (916)686-1208 Sacramento, California since 05/92. Sysop: John Sheckles. Using TBBS 2.2 with 64 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 24000 MB storage. AT&T at 14400 bps. \$30 Monthly fee. Northern Calif. Largest TBBS ADULT BBS. 36 CD-ROMS online. 1-800 Service available. CD-ROM time by the hour. CHAT, E-Mail, Games, Matchmaking, Lifestyles, Swingers area. Online Trivia games. Super friendly Sysops! Call Toto's Today!

Hackney's Hideaway BBS (916)755-3964 Yuba City, California since 06/87. Sysop: Rich Hackney. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 1 line on MS-DOS 80486 with 800 MB storage. US Robotics at 14400 bps. No fee. Over 300 megs of online files plus 350 echomail conferences from the Intelc, Smartnet, PEN, Ilink networks. A very little used BBS over USR DS service, no validation, no waiting - get 60 minutes free access per day. How can you beat that?

For Adults Only BBS (916)962-3973 Sacramento, California since 01/88. Sysop: Dale DeBord. Using Oracomm-PLUS 7.1 with 17 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 2000 MB storage. Practical Peripheral at 14400 bps. \$14 Quarterly fee. Sacramento's largest and friendliest Adult CHAT, FILES System. Adult Message Bases, CHAT, GIF, GL, DL, FLI, Text and Game FILES. FREE Member GIFs. DISCOUNT Member Plans for Students and Military. FREE 3-HOUR TRIAL PERIOD. DOWNLOAD ON FIRST LOGON!

Black Gold BBS (918)272-7779 Tulsa, Oklahoma since 06/81. Sysop: Michael Cline. Using PCBoard 15.1 with 17 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 32000 MB storage. US Robotics at 57600 bps. \$30 Annual fee. Full PageSat and Planet Connect! 32+ gigs, 26 writable! 100 Doors, Full time SYSOP's and much much more. Many free areas and files with 45 minutes free access per day. 350 file areas, 3+ million messages less than 7 days old. Never Porno! Just hard work!

Micro Message Service (MMS) (919)779-6674 Raleigh, North Carolina since 10/82. Sysop: Michael M. Stroud. Using TBBS 2.2 with 10 lines on MS-DOS 80486 with 12000 MB storage. US Robotics at 19200 bps. \$45.00 Annual fee. NC's # 1 online info service support for PC, Mac, Amiga and Atari ST. Hundreds of new files added weekly. Expert leaders for each SIG. Authorized eSoft dealer, system design and TDBS programming. Give your online system a leading edge, call us first.

BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

NATIONAL LIST OF ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS AND ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES - March 1994

SERVICE	PHONE	DESCRIPTION	SPONSOR/SYSOP	LOCATION
ADA 9X Project Bulletin Board	(800)232-9925	ADA Programming Language Revisions and News	Chris Anderson/Susan Carlson	Eglin AFB, FL
ADA Information Clearinghouse	(703)614-0215	Information on ADA Programming Language/Military Specs	Department of Defense	Washington, D.C.
Advanced Data Services Inc.	(301)695-9116	22 line PCBoard with 5.5 GB of Files	Blaine Brodka	Frederick, MD
Alamo PC Organization	(210)496-5558	Numerous Files, Info	Robert Schoenert	San Antonio, TX
Albuquerque ROS	(505)299-5974	36000 files/USA Today/Tradewars/Online Games	Steven Fox	Albuquerque, NM
America's Suggestion Box	(516)471-8625	BBS Devoted to Collecting and Distributing Consumer Feedback	Joseph G. Jerszynski	Ronkonkoma, NY
American Cybernetics BBS	(602)968-1082	Multi-Edit Product Support BBS	American Cybernetics	Tempe, AZ
ANARC BBS	(913)345-1978	World Radio/TV Handbook - Short Wave Freq Lists/Scheds.	Assoc. of North American Radio Clubs	Shawnee Mission, KS
APCUG - GlobalNet	(408)439-9367	Association of PC User Groups - Over 2000 UG officers	Paul Curtis/APCUG	Scotts Valley, CA
Applied Modeling Research RBBS	(919)541-1325	Environmental Protection Agency Atmospheric Models	William Peterson/EPA	Hurdle Mills, NC
Aquila BBS	(708)820-8344	6 GB 25 Nodes Fidonet/Interlink/Metronet MCE IL/CHI Graphics	Kevin Behrens/Steve Williams/Doug Bell	Aurora, IL
Argus Computerized Exchange	(617)674-2345	Multiline Community Chat Service - Restaurant Review dbase	Pam Morrison	Lexington, MA
AST Technical Services BBS	(714)727-4723	Superb support system for AST Computer Products	AST Research Inc.	Irvine, CA
AT&T Support BBS	(908)769-6397	Support for PC 6300 and Other AT&T PC Models	American Telephone/Telegraph PC Division	Plainfield, NJ
ATI Support BBS	(416)756-4591	Support for ATI Modems and Video Cards	ATI Technologies	Scarborough, Ontario
Atomic Cafe BBS	(713)530-8875	Houston Area BBS list and Connect! Magazine	David Wachenschwanz	Houston, TX
Atri BBS	(903)758-2784	4 Gigs Online All Fidonet Message areas Over 200 door games	Walter Cade	Longview, TX
Attention to Details	(714)681-6221	Utilities/ASP/Patrinquin Utils/Protocols	Clint Bradford	Mira Loma, CA
Audiophile Network	(818)988-0452	High-end Audio Components, Music, Video Reviews	Guy Hickey/Quatre Speakers	Van Nuys, CA
Automobile Consumer Services	(513)624-0552	New Car Pricing Reports - Used Car Value Reports	Automobile Consumer Services Inc.	Cincinnati, OH
AviTechnic 1:261/662	(301)252-0717	Software Distribution System - BBS Utilities	Tom Hendricks	Lutherville, MD
BBS America	(214)680-3406	Home of DFW Online Electronic Newsletter	Jay Gaines	Richardson, TX
BCS BBS	(213)962-2902	Los Angeles' First Super BBS Under Development	Jim Lee	Los Angeles, CA
BCS IBM BBS	(617)964-2540	IBM PC Topics - TBBS Software (Internet)	Boston Computer Society/Martin Hannigan	Boston, MA
BCS Info Center BBS	(617)621-0882	General Topics - TBBS - Internet Mail	Boston Computer Society/Martin Hannigan	Boston, MA
BCS Mac BBS	(617)864-0712	Macintosh Topics - Firstclass BBS Software	Boston Computer Society/Martin Hannigan	Boston, MA
Beach Board BBS 1:371/1	(813)337-4950	Over 100 online games - Internet Mail - 8 lines - 48000 fls	Dave Ward	Fort Myers, FL
Beyond Eternity	(310)371-3734	Home of EEEK! Bits - Weekly Electronic Trivia Magazine	J. Black/K. Taghadossi	Torrance, CA
Beyond the Realm	(805)987-5506	200+ message areas 60+ file areas Fidonet VNet Adult Topics	Lee Ladisky	Cambridge, CA
BMUG BBS	(510)849-2684	Support for Macintosh owners - files - conferences.	Berkeley Macintosh Users Group	Berkeley, CA
Boardwatch Magazine Online Info	(303)973-4222	Distribution Service for USA Today/Boardwatch/Newsbytes	Boardwatch Magazine	Littleton, CO
Book BBS	(215)657-6130	Information on 2000 Computer Books - 800 order number	Business & Computer Book Store	Willow Grove, PA
Book Stacks Unlimited	(216)694-5732	200,000 Book Titles Database - Online Ordering	Charles Stack	Cleveland, OH
Borland Download BBS	(408)431-5096	Utilities, Macros, Programming Examples for Borland Products	Borland International/Mike Fitz-Enz	Scotts Valley, CA
Botnay Bay EIS	(603)431-7229	20 GB of Files - Adult areas - BBS Lists	Myles Bratter	Portsmouth, NH
Boundary Waters BBS	(218)365-6907	Canoe Trips/Resorts/Fishing/Wilderness in Minnesota	Gary Knopp/InfoNorth	Ely, MN
Bruce's Bar & Grill	(203)236-3761	24-line Social System - Chat - Games - Downloads	Bruce Lomasky	West Hartford, CT
Bryant Software	(303)733-0773	Support & Demo of Bryant Software & TBBS Products	Alan Bryant	Denver, CO
C.A.R.L. Library Service	(303)758-1551	Citations to 4 Million Texts in Colorado Library System FREE	Colorado Alliance of Research Libraries	Denver, CO
CAD/Engineering Service	(615)822-2539	Computer Aided Design File Distribution Network 1:116/32	Stan Bimson	Hendersonville, TN
Canada Remote Systems	(416)213-6003	23GB/400000+ files, 3500 Confs, USENET, IBM/Amiga/Mac	Neil Fleming/Jud Newell	Mississauga, Ontario
Capital PC User's Group BBS	(301)738-9060	One of the oldest PC User's Groups - 5500 members	Capital PC Users Group/Roger Fajman	Rockville, MD
Castle Tabby 107/412	(908)988-0706	Home of TABBY Fidonet Interface Program for Apple Macintosh	Michael E. Connick	Bradley Beach, NJ
Caverns of the Abyss	(405)482-2980	4 Gigs Online CD Roms	Shannon Graham	Altus, OK
CBBS/Chicago	(312)545-8086	First Electronic Bulletin Board - Since 2/16/78	Ward Christensen/Randy Sues	Chicago, IL
Celebration Station	(207)374-5161	Adventure Games, Chat, and Sigs - Children	Noel Stookey (Paul of Peter, Paul & Mary)	Blue Hill Falls, Maine
Central Point Software	(503)690-6650	PC Tools - Central Point Anti-virus support board	Central Point Software Inc.	Beaverton, OR

Channel 1	(617)354-8873	70-line PCBoard - 8 GB Files - Internet - 1000's msg. confs.	Brian Miller/Tess Heder	Cambridge ,MA
Chicago SysLink	(708)795-4442	Special Interest Areas for Ferret/Pet Owners. TRS80/Aviation	George Matyaszek	Berwyn ,IL
Chinet	(312)283-0559	UNIX System offering Internet Mail	Randy Suess	Chicago ,IL
City Lites PCBoard	(701)772-5399	9 GB files, Rimenet, Internet, FidoNet, ASP, Online Orders	John Lundell	Grand Forks ,ND
City Online	(909)860-Line	City Government BBS Rip/Internet & more	Troy Butzlaff	Diamond Bar ,CA
Classified Connection BBS	(619)566-7347	Giddy Girls - Nude GIF Images of the Girl Next Door	Bill Kennon	San Diego ,CA
Cleveland Freenet	(216)368-3888	Cleveland City Info/Public Library - Free Internet Mail Box	Case Western University/AT&T/Ohio Bell	Cleveland ,OH
Cloud Nine	(713)855-4382	15 meg, 30 Nodes	Harold Lucas	Houston ,TX
Colorado Connection	(303)423-9775	Breeding, Raising, Taming, Exotic Birds	Terry Rune/Dave McClauggage	Arvada ,CO
Community News Service (CNS)	(719)520-5000	News and Entertainment - 17 Lines Community Focus	Klaus Dimmler	Colorado Springs ,CO
Compact Audio Disk Exchange	(415)824-7603	Buy/Sell/Trade Compact Audio Discs Online	Wayne Gregori	San Francisco ,CA
Computer Business Services	(909)396-0014	Book/Publishing Consultant John C. Dvorak & Nick Anis' BBS	Nick Anis Jr.	Diamond Bar ,CA
Computer Business Services	(714)396-0014	Book/Publishing Consultant Nick Anis' BBS	Nick Anis Jr.	Diamond Bar ,CA
Computer Garden	(301)546-1508	Treasure Hunting - Metal Detectors - Online Catalog	Milford P. Webster	Salisbury ,MD
Computing Canada Online	(416)497-5263	Adjunct to Excellent Canadian PC Newspaper	Computing Canada Newspaper	Willowdale ,Ontario
Crosstalk Communications BBS	(404)740-8428	Product Support for Crosstalk for Windows/MK4/XVI	Digital Communications Associates	Roswell ,GA
Cul-de-Sac Bar & Grill	(508)429-1784	Multiline Service - Ham Radio - Humor - TDBS Applications	Pete White	Holliston ,MA
CyberStore - a COCONET BBS	(604)526-3676	All lines to v.32bis/v.42/v.42bis. CyberTools for BBS'es	CyberStore Online Info. Systems Inc.	New Westminster ,BC
DAK Online Resource Center	(818)715-7153	DAK Mail Order Catalog - Breakmakers - CD ROMS - Computers	DAK Industries/Tom Krogh	Canoga Park ,CA
Dark Side of the Moon	(408)245-7726	Home of WAFFLE, Unix UUCP BBS Software for DOS and UNIX	Thomas E. Dell/Darkside International	Mountain View ,CA
Data Bank	(913)842-7744	Information HQ, Support Board, Net-Mail & Files	Bob Oyster	Lawrence ,KS
Data Core BBS	(310)842-6880	25 line Major BBS	Matthew Schoen/Delta Enterprises	Los Angeles ,CA
DataLink RBBS System	(214)394-7438	Weather Satellite Imaging, NOAA Satellite Tracking-AMSAT-NA	Dallas Remote Imaging Group/Jeff Wallach	Carrollton ,TX
Dawg Byte	(615)385-4268	ANSI Art Club 1:116/29	Kevin Snively	Nashville ,TN
Deep Cove BBS	(604)536-5885	16 line TBBS, 3500 MBytes files for IBM, MAC, Amiga	Wayne Duval	White Rock ,BC
Denver Exchange, The 104/909	(303)623-4965	Denver's Most Diverse Gay/Lesbian Info Service	James Craig	Denver ,CO
Denver Free-Net	(303)270-4865	Free Community Online Service - Health Info	University of Colorado Health Science	
Distant Mirror BBS	(615)648-1782	Free Access BBS	Steve Perlo	Clarksville ,TN
Distributed Info Service	(718)727-1456	Information Service	Joseph Bianco	Staten Island ,NY
DNIS	(619)864-1468	Outstanding BBS Gateway to multiple information services	Mike Simmons	Palm Springs ,CA
Duke Graphics of San Diego	(619)793-8360	7 CD Roms Online, 4 gigs 50,000 files	Chris Duke	San Diego ,CA
EarthArt BBS	(803)552-4389	Wildlife/Conservation Art Gallery GIF Images	Ambassador Wildlife Gallery/Bob Chapman	North Charleston ,SC
Ed-Net	(604)732-8877	Vancouver School Board Multi-Line Educational Network	Barry Macdonald/Vancouver Board of Ed	Vancouver ,BC
Electric Ideas Clearinghouse	(206)586-6854	Energy Efficiency Efforts In Pacific Northwest-HydroElec	Bonneville Power Administration WSE	Olympia ,WA
Electronic Publishers BBS	(503)624-4966	News-Finance-Sports-Games-2GB File Library	Brian Cash	Portland ,OR
Electronic Zone, The	(412)349-3504	Specializing in Hypertext	William R. Forbes	Indiana ,PA
Energy Info Admin E-Publications	(202)586-8658	Variety of Petroleum/Coal/Electricity Energy Statistics	US Department of Energy	Washington ,D.C.
Entertainment & Graphics	(503)697-5100	Entertainment & Graphics	Jim Maxey	Lake Oswego ,OR
eSoft Product Support BBS	(303)699-8222	Home of The Bread Board System (TBBS) BBS Software	Phil Becker/eSoft Inc.	Aurora ,CO
Event Horizons	(503)697-5100	64 Line Digitized Graphics Image Library - Adult .GIF files	Jim Maxey	Lake Oswego ,OR
EXEC-PC	(414)789-4210	Largest BBS in US - 280 Lines -650,000 files - 35 Gigabytes	Bob and Tracey Mahoney	Elm Grove ,WI
Executive Network	(914)667-4567	Interlink Netmail National Host - Multiline PCBoard System	Andy Keeves	Mt. Vernon ,NY
Eye Contact BBS	(415)255-5972	22 line Oracom - Gay Issues - Popular Chat System	Bill Montgomery	Mill Valley ,CA
FAA Flight Standards ASO-FSDO-15	(800)645-3736	FAA Flight Standards Publication & Info for the Aviation Com	FAA/Bill Hoenstine	
Falken Support BBS	(703)803-8000	Support for FALKEN software - 16 lines - doors - chat	Herb Rose	Woodbridge ,VA
Farwest BBS	(604)381-3934	Large Western Canada Galaticomm Info System	Ren L'Ecuyer	Victoria ,BC
FAX/Satellite Services BBS	(619)224-3653	NOAA Weather Satellite Images - Russian/Japanese Sat Pics	Scotty Olson	San Diego ,CA
FCC Public Access Link	(301)725-1072	Equipment Authorization Status Advisory Service	Federal Communications Commission	Columbia ,MD
FEDLINK ALIX II	(202)707-4888	Info on Federal Libraries -Excerpts Library of Congress News	Federal Library Information Network	Washington ,D.C.
Fido Tech Stand	31-30-735900	Fidonet Technical Information for Holland	J.J. van der Maas	Utrecht ,Holland
Fire & Ice	(313)373-8608	A Family BBS With Christians Discussions	William Sims	Dayton Plains ,MI
Fisherman's Net	(614)837-0400	Dedicated to Fisherman	Lloyd Davidson	Carroll ,OH
FOG City BBS 125/10	(415)863-9697	Gay Community BBS - AIDS Info - Desktop Publishing - MACs	Bill Essex	San Francisco ,CA
Foundation Online Service	(203)968-8752	15+ Gigs 8 Lines Internet	David Deutsch	Stanford ,CT

BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

NATIONAL LIST OF ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS AND ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES - March 1994

SERVICE	PHONE	DESCRIPTION	SPONSOR/SYSOP	LOCATION
Fred the Computer	(508)872-8461	Newspaper BBS, Wierdnet Newswire, List of MA Libraries	Middlesex News-Adam Gaffin	Framingham, MA
FreeBoard BBS, The	(804)744-0797	Desktop Publishing File Distribution Network 1:264/212	Bill Hunter	Midlothian, VA
Fun Connection	(503)753-8431	Multiline Entertainment - 8 Lines Games/Chat/News	Vincent Reece	Corvallis, OR
Galacticomm Demo System	(305)583-7808	Customer support for Major BBS	Galacticomm	Fort Lauderdale, FL
Garbage Dump	(505)294-5675	Hottest Chat in America - National Access \$1.75 per Hour	Dean Kerl & Simon Clement	Albuquerque, NM
Gateway On-Line	(714)863-7097	Novell Netware/TCP-IP Shareware Utilities	Carol De Jesus	Irvine, CA
GDP Technologies	(313)291-5571	Interactive Chat, Multiplayer Games, Usenet/Internet, E-mail	Jeff Breithner/Bill Mullen	Rockwood, MI
General, The	(303)673-9470	Outstanding IBM Shareware on a small system	Tom Getty's	Lafayette, CO
GISnet BBS	(619)281-8616	Popular File Library - GIF Images	Marc Teitler	San Diego, CA
GLIB	(303)447-0927	Graphics Information Systems/Mapping topics	Bill Thoen	Boulder, CO
GPO WINDO Online Service	(703)578-4542	Gay and Lesbian Information Bureau - 11 Lines - 9600 bps	Community Educational Svcs. Foundation	Arlington, VA
Greenpeace Environet	(202)512-1387	Fed Information from EPA, DOE, State Department - others.	US Government Printing Office	Washington, DC
Hackers R Us Online	(415)512-9108	Ecological and Peace Issues - Disarmament/Toxics/Wildlife	Dick Dillman/Greenpeace	San Francisco, CA
Hackers World BBS	(602)945-8416	Online Games, Files & Tech Discussions	David Ray	Scottsdale, AZ
Harris City Medical BBS	(309)672-4405	Adult Files, Fidonet Echo-Mail Adult-net	Martin Belicke	Peoria, IL
Hayes Advanced Systems Support	(713)790-1093	Medical Information	Monica Faulk	Houston, TX
Heartland Free-net	(800)874-2937	Customer Support Line for Hayes Customers, V-series/Ultra	Hayes Microcomputer Products	Norcross, GA
Herpnet/Satronics TBBS	(309)674-1100	Community Online Service - Free Internet E-Mail Boxes	Peoria County Board/Bradley University	Peoria, IL
HH Info-Net BBS	(215)698-1905	Reptile and Amphibian Studies - Poison Snakes/Toads/Fish	Mark Miller	Philadelphia, PA
HoloNet	(203)246-3747	MS Windows and OS/2 Files our specialty	Lee Winsor	New Hartford, CT
HouseNet BBS	(510)704-1058	National Access, INTERNET, USENET CHAT, GIFS, FILES	Information Access Technologies, Inc.	Berkeley, CA
Howard's Notebook 1:280/25	(410)745-2037	Home Fixup/Repair/Renovation Tips, Advice, and Articles	Gene and Katie Hamilton	St. Michaels, MD
Hysterics	(816)331-5868	Environmental, Peace, Justice since 1982 - 4 nodes	Jim Howard	Kansas City, MO
IBM National Support Center BBS	(613)231-7144	Amiga File Distribution Network 1:163/109	Russell McOrmond	Ottawa, Ontario
Inbound/Outbound/Teleconnect	(404)835-5300	IBM PC User Groups Database - Newsletter Exchange	IBM National Support Center	Atlanta, GA
Infinite Space Online	(212)989-4675	Telephone Sales Trade Magazine Online Service	Harry Newton Publications	New York, NY
InfoHost Demo BBS	(407)856-0021	32 Line Interactive Chat & Games Majornet	Charlie Scherker	Orlando, FL
Inns of Court, The	(201)335-2253	Demo BBS for InfoHost BBS Software - Multiline - Database	A-Comm Electronics Inc.	Hasbrouch Heights, NJ
Intel PCEO Support BBS	(214)458-2620	LAN Related Files and Utilities 1:124/6101	Arthur Geffen	Dallas, TX
Inter Comm	(503)645-6275	Support for Intel PC Products - Inboard 386/AboveBoard 286	Intel Corporation PCEO Division	Hillsborough, OR
InterMail Tech Support BBS	(702)359-2666	6 Line 5.5 Gig 30,000 Files	Roger Brown	Spark, NV
Invention Factory	(305)436-1884	Home of InterMail, Front End Mailer for FidoNet 1:369/102	Patrik Bertilsson	Hollywood, FL
Investor's Online Data	(212)274-8110	46 Lines - 100 Directories - Full Usenet Feed - 8.2 GB	Mike Sussell	New York, NY
JDR Microdevices BBS	(206)285-5359	Online Investment/Stock Market Information/Tech Analysis	Don Shepherdson	Bellevue, WA
JOBS	(408)559-0253	Online Hardware Order - Catalog - 1.1 GB Files - Quizzes	JDR Microdevices	San Jose, CA
Keith Graham Shareware Support	(404)992-8937	Online Job Listings - 2186 Technical Pos. - 10,000 Corps.	Alpha Systems Inc./Bill Griffin	Roswell, GA
KIMBERLY BBS	(914)623-0039	OPTIK, TEXT2COM, CBOOT, very good shareware utilities	Keith P. Graham	Nyack, NY
King's Market BBS 104/115	(612)340-2489	Prime Rate-Fed Funds-T-Bill-Discount Rate-Economic Data	Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis	Minneapolis, MN
Knight Vision BBS	(303)665-6091	400 MB Books, Writers Area - TRS 80 Support	Jim and Karen Burt	Boulder, CO
Lace's Place	(213)344-3600	Chess and Backgammon - 8 lines - "Intelligent Entertainment"	Matthew Beelby	Pasadena, CA
LANTASTIC BBS	(718)822-3552	Female Domination Adult BBS online since 7/91	Ellen Grogan	New York City, NY
Late Night Software 125/555	(602)293-8065	Support for LANTASTIC local area network	Artisoft Inc.	Tucson, AZ
LegalEase	(415)695-0759	Home of UFGATE - Software to connect PCs to UUCP/Usenet	Tim Pozar	San Francisco, CA
LICA Limbs BBS	(509)326-3238	Legal issues/Forms - Law BBS List	Bill Sorcinelli	Spokane, WA
Lincoln Cabin BBS	(516)561-6590	Member written software PC Board 15.0 USR HST Since 1980	Dave Minott	Valley Stream, NY
MAC-LINK	(415)752-4490	General Interests & Rime	Steve Pomerantz	San Francisco, CA
	(514)486-8959	Macintosh Oriented Support BBS - 6 Lines - Informat/BIX	Mark Smith	Montreal, Quebec

Macalot Bulletin Board	(412)846-5312	Support for Second Sight BBS Software for Macintosh	Jeff Dripps/FreeSoft Company	Beaver Falls ,PA
MacCircles	(303)526-2219	Mac System Software distributor, mail, sigs, files	Patricia O'Connor	Golden ,CO
MacInterational	(803)798-3755	Macintosh support since April '85. FirstClass BBS	Ralph Yount	Columbia ,SC
Magpie BBS	(212)420-0527	Support/Demo System for Magpie BBS/Conferencing Software	Steve Manes	New York ,NY
MaxiHost Support BBS	(209)836-2402	MaxiHost BBS - small, very easy to run BBS	Don Mankin	San Ramon ,CA
Mayan Antiquities	(214)691-1316	Mayan Culture and Antiquities	Ron Whipple	Dallas ,TX
McAfee Associates BBS	(408)988-4004	Computer Virus Information - VIRUSCAN and CLEANUP	John McAfee/CVIA	Santa Clara ,CA
Med Technet	(716)688-1552	A BBS for Medical Info	Bill Hliwa	East Amherst ,NY
Medi-Call BBS	(818)330-1739	Active 2 lines PubSvc w/ 120 netmail confs., & GIGs of Files	Gordon Huyck	
Meeting Works, The	(212)737-6932	Meeting/seminar/convention planning information.	John Mackenzie	New York ,NY
METRO Online Entertainment	(212)831-9280	2 line DLX with City Guide/Ski Database - Matchmaker - Chat	Bruce Kamm/Metro Online Services	New York City ,NY
Micro Foundry, The	(415)598-0398	2.2 GB Downloads - Your Online Software Source - Boardwatch	Thomas Nelson/Clockwork Software	San Jose ,CA
Micro Message Service	(919)779-6674	USA Today/Boxoffice Magazine - Large Download Area	Mike Stroud	Raleigh ,NC
Microrim Technical Support BBS	(206)649-9836	Support for Popular R:Base Relational Data Base System	Microrim Corporation	Redmond ,WA
Microsoft Download BBS	(206)936-6735	Windows Technical Notes and Support Information	Microsoft Corp/Scott J. Honaker	Bellevue ,WA
Microsystems Software Inc.	(508)875-8009	HandiWare Software for Handicapped - CodeRunner C Utilities	MSI - Reed Lewis	Framingham ,MA
MindVox	(212)989-4141	Internet Access, E-Mail, Newsgroups, ftp/telnet	Phantom Access Technologies	New York ,NY
Minnesota Space Frontier	(612)459-0892	Minnesota Space Frontier Society - NASA News	Ben Husset	Minneapolis ,MN
MOG-UR'S EMS, The	(818)366-1238	5 Lines - 8 Networks CD-ROMS - 2.8 GB Hub Services HSTV/32	Tom Tcimpidis	Granada Hills ,CA
Monterey Gaming System	(408)655-5555	A Custom Multi-user BBS with Conferencing and Custom Games	David Janakes	Monterey ,CA
Mountain Air BBS	(703)427-0226	Adult Based BBS	Edward Lee Wood, Jr.	Roanoke ,VA
Movie BBS	(718)939-5462	Movie Reviews and Information - Television	Clarke Ulmer	New York ,NY
Mustang Software	(805)873-2400	Support for Mustang Software Products	MSI Sysop	Bakersfield ,CA
N.A.C.D. BBS	(912)246-3280	Cave Scuba Diving - Superb Special Topic System	National Assoc. of Cave Divers	Gainsville ,FL
N8EMR Ham BBS	(614)895-2553	login:hbsb HAM Radio/AMSAT Unix System - Satellite/Packet	Gary Sanders	Westerville ,OH
Namu BBS	(913)273-1550	Amateur Radio Interests	Rob Nail	
NAPLPS Graphics BBS	(613)727-5272	NAPLPS Graphics Terminal and Editor Software	MicroStar Corp.	Nepean ,Ontario
NASA Spacelink	(205)895-0028	NASA Educational Affairs Div. - Flight Data/Space History	Marshall Space Flight Center	Huntsville ,AL
Nashville Exchange	(615)383-0727	12 line TBBS - Games/TDBS Software Development 1.8 GB	Ben Cunningham	Nashville ,TN
National Genealogical BBS	(703)528-2612	Family History - Genealogical Research - Gravestone Haunting	National Genealogical Society	Arlington ,VA
Netcom Internet Guest System	(408)241-9760	Internet Access System - type "guest" at login for info.	Netcom Online Communications Services	San Jose ,CA
Network World Bulletin Board	(508)620-1178	LAN and WAN Issues and Technology	Network World Magazine	Framingham ,MA
Newbed	(506)453-2147	Educational System K12 Net	William Brydges	Fredericton ,NB
Newtown Express BBS	(215)943-6806	14.5 Gigs/700+Sigs 18 Lines Large Adult Section USA Today	Anthony Maglietta	Newton ,PA
Night Shift, The	(818)955-5155	16 lines/chat/Usenet Newsgroups/Internet Mail/USATODAY	Charles Hilt	Burbank ,CA
NIST ACTS	(303)494-4775	Automated Computer Telephone Service - Sync PC to NBS Time	Nat. Institute for Standards/Technology	Boulder ,CO
NOAA Space Environment Lab	(303)497-5042	Solar Flare/Geomagnetic Data Online	National Oceanographic/Atmospheric Admin	Boulder ,CO
NoGate Consulting	(616)530-3392	Home of PAK archive utility	Mike Neuhaus Gus Smedstad	Grand Rapids ,MI
North Castle BBS	(507)281-8292	Minnesota #1 RPG BBS	Rob Richter	Rochester ,MN
O&E Online	(313)591-0903	Free Community BBS, Editorial Text from Newspapers	Greg Day	Livonia ,MI
OAQPOSTTN	(919)541-5742	Air Quality Planning and Standards Technology Transfer Net	Environmental Protection Agency	Research Triangle Pk ,NC
OASIS BBS	(404)627-2662	Home of Atlanta Bulletin Board List - ABBL	Robert Orr/Online Atlanta Society	Decatur ,GA
Occupational Health/Safety BBS	(212)385-2034	Job Safety Issues for Artists, Musicians, Entertainers	Mike McCann/Center for Safety in Arts	New York ,NY
Odyssey	(818)358-6968	Adult Multiline Chat System - Games - Magazines - Downloads	Michael Allen	Monrovia ,CA
ODYSSEY	(818)358-6968	Largest Adult Based Entertainment Service In North America	Michael Allen	Monrovia ,CA
OERI BBS	(800)222-4922	Educational Statistics and Data - Performance Stats -	US Department of Education	Washington ,D.C.
Old Colorado City Communications	(719)632-4111	Political Discussions - Unix UUCP Public Access - Multiline	Dave Hughes	Colorado Springs ,CO
Online Now	(807)345-5522	Canada's shareware house is online now	Gary Walsh/Tom Haavisto	Thunder Bay ,Ontario
Online With Hayes	(404)446-6336	Hayes Public Bulletin Board - Conferences/SIGS/Support	Hayes Microcomputer Products	Norcross ,GA
Oracle PC	6108 260-6222	South Australian TBBS Multiline System	Don Crago	Pooraka South Australia ,
Oracom Support BBS	(612)894-5879	Sales and Support for Oracom Multiline BBS Software	Surf Computer Services	Minneapolis ,MN
Osprey's Nest	(301)989-9036	Birdwatching, Bird feeding, Naturalist/Ecology Issues	Fran and Norm Saunders	Colesville ,MD
Ozone Hole, The	(504)891-3142	Boardwatch-USA Today-Internet-Usenet-RIME	Mike Mathews	New Orleans ,LA
P.D.S.L.O. BBS	(516)938-6722	Home of THE LIST National BBS List	James Toro	Hicksville ,NY

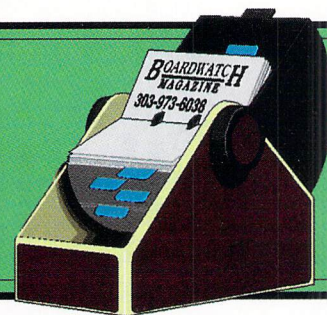
BOARDWATCH MAGAZINE

NATIONAL LIST OF ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS AND ONLINE INFORMATION SERVICES - March 1994

SERVICE	PHONE	DESCRIPTION	SPONSOR/SYSOP	LOCATION
PacComm BBS	(813)874-3078	Packet Radio Equipment Supplier - TNC/PSK Modems	Gwyn Reedy/PacCom Inc.	Tampa, FL
PC Junction BBS	(615)478-2890	Smartnet Throbneth 100,000 Files & Online Magazines	Douglas Carpenter	Cleveland, TN
PC Ohio	(216)381-3320	Shareware library with 100% USR HST access - 24 lines	Norm Henke	Cleveland, OH
Pennywise	(800)752-3012	Online Office Supply Sales Service	Pennywise	Edmonston, MD
PHYSICS Forum BBS	(413)545-1959	Physics and Astronomical Sciences	Univ. of Mass. Dept. of Physics/Astronomy	Amherst, MA
PINECLIFFE BBS 104/28	(303)642-7463	Large Shareware Library/Echomail Conferences since 1985	Craig Baker	Pinecliffe, CO
Pinnacle Software BBS	(514)345-8654	Support for Sapphire BBS Software	Timothy Campbell/Pinnacle Software	Montreal, Quebec
Pipeline, The	(209)592-9861	Construction topics for contractors, suppliers, public works	Michael W. Adams	Fresno, CA
PKWare BBS	(414)354-8670	Home of PKZIP 1.10 Compression Utility	Phil Katz/PKWare Incorporated	Glendale, WI
Pleasure Dome	(804)490-5878	Sexually Explicit Fantasy Chat System - Adults only	Tom Terrific	Tidewater, VA
Practical Peripherals BBS	(805)496-4445	Support BBS for Practical Peripherals Modems	Practical Peripherals	West Lake Village, CA
ProComm Support BBS	(314)875-0503	Home of ProComm 2.4.3 and ProComm Plus Comm Prgrms	Thomas Smith/DataStorm Technologies Inc.	Columbia, MO
Promised Land, The	(715)387-1339	16-Line/2.5GB/11,000+ Files/ WINDOWS, Chat & More	Tim Brown/Computer Solutions	Marshfield, WI
Public Brand Software BBS	(317)856-2087	Commercial Shareware Vendor	Public Brand Software	Indianapolis, IN
Public Connection	(817)738-7336	Public Files	Joe Coles	Ft Worth, TX
QMail Deluxe Support BBS	(615)230-8822	Support for QMail Deluxe and 1stReader offline mail utils	Mark (Sparky) Herring	Germantown, TN
Qualitas, Inc. BBS	(301)907-8030	386MAX and BlueMAX Memory Management Software Support	Qualitas Inc.	Bethesda, MD
Quarterdeck BBS	(310)314-3227	Technical Support for QEMM, DESQview, all Quarterdeck Prods	Quarterdeck Office Systems	Santa Monica, CA
QuickBBS Support BBS 363/34	(407)896-0494	Product Support for QuickBBS Software	Richard Creighton/Steve Gabrilowitz	Orlando, FL
Random Access Information Svc.	(503)695-3250	11,000 GIF Images - 20,000 DOS/Windows Shareware Files	Janice Stevens	Corbett, OR
RoboBOARD/FX	(819)682-7771	RoboBOARD Support 8 Lines	Hamilton TeleGraphics Inc.	Aylmer, PQ
Ronin BBS	(214)938-2840	Traditional File and Message BBS	Chuck Mattern	Red Oak, TX
Rose Media	(416)733-2780	19 GB - Home of Rosemail - Publications/Conferences	Vic Kass	Willowdale, Ontario
Rusty & Edies	(216)726-0737	Large ML PCBoard run by Husband and Wife - NFL/Tradewars	Rusty and Edwina Hardenburgh	Boardman, OH
Sahara Club BBS	(818)893-1899	Land-Use issues, Off-Road, Timber, Conservation	Patrick Martin/Sahara Club	North Hills, CA
Salt Air BBS	(801)261-8976	Home of PCBoard BBS Software - National List of PCB Sys	Clark Development Company/David Terry	Murray, UT
San Diego NeXT User's Group BBS	(619)456-2522	Support for NeXT Computers	Brian Dear/San Diego NeXT User's Group	San Diego, CA
SBA Online	(800)697-4636	Advice for Small Business Owners on Financing/Management	Small Business Administration	Washington, DC
Science Resource Studies BBS	(202)634-1764	Federal R&D Budget - Technical Labor Market Statistics	National Science Foundation	Washington, D.C.
SDN Project, The 1:141/840	(203)634-0370	The Original Software Distribution Network	Ray Kaliss	Meriden, CT
SEABOARD!	(804)442-6047	Support system for ARC, SEADOG, and AXE software.	System Enhancement Associates	Nassawadox, VA
Seagate Technical Support BBS	(408)438-8771	Installation and Specifications for Hard Drive Models	Seagate/Bill Rudok	Scotts Valley, CA
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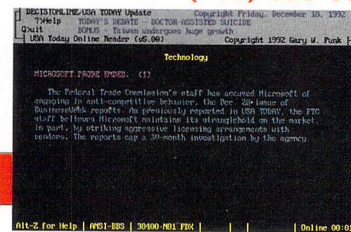
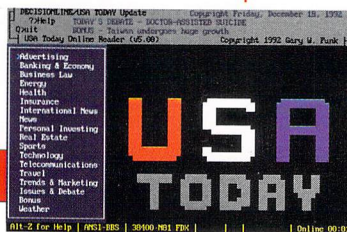
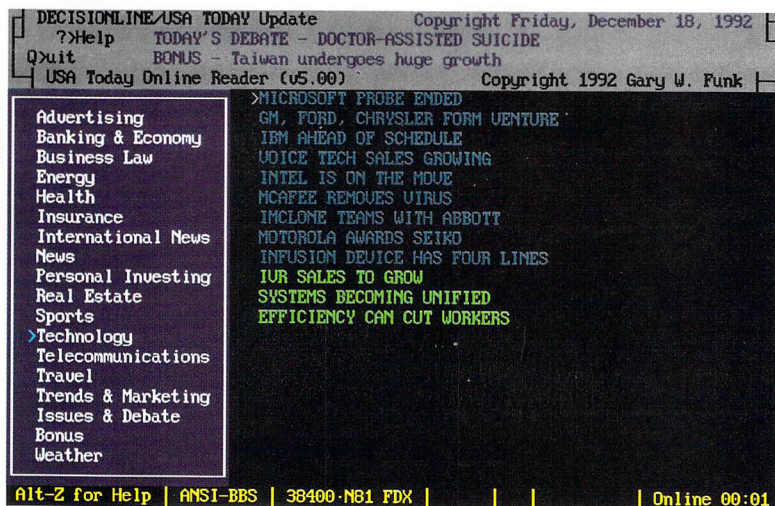
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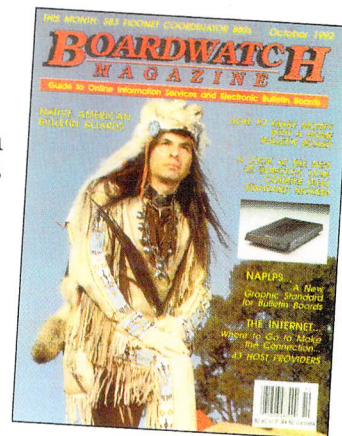
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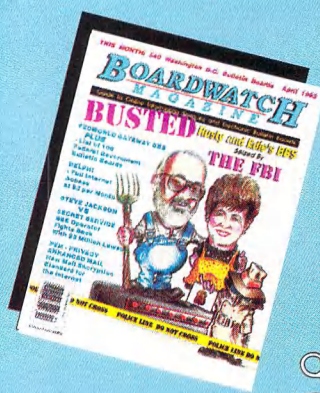
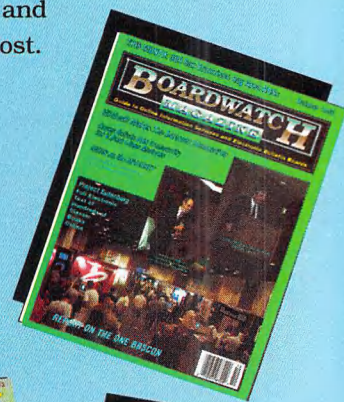
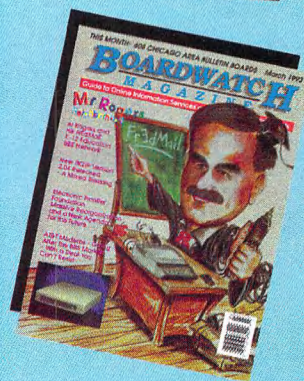
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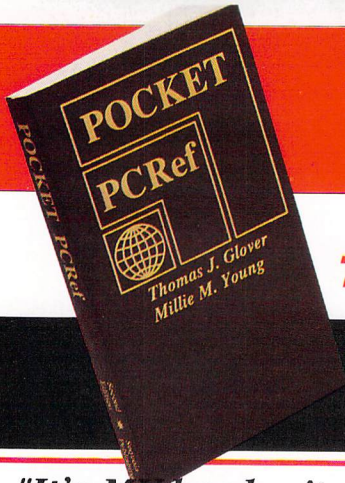
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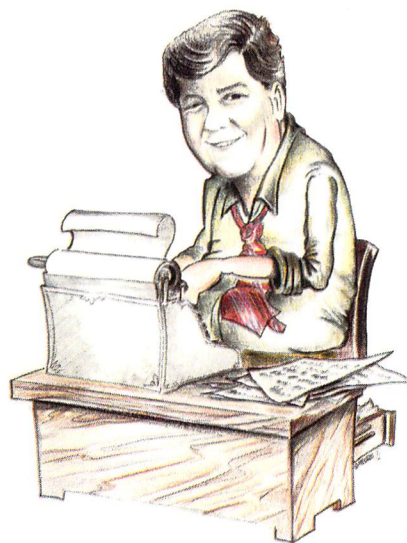
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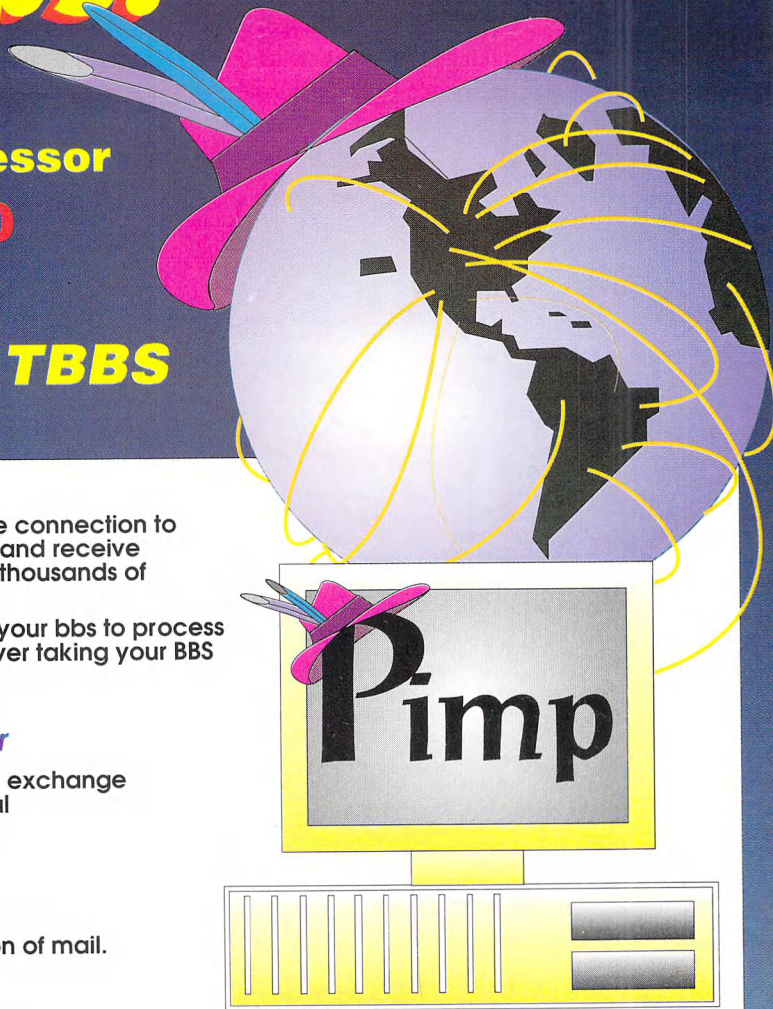
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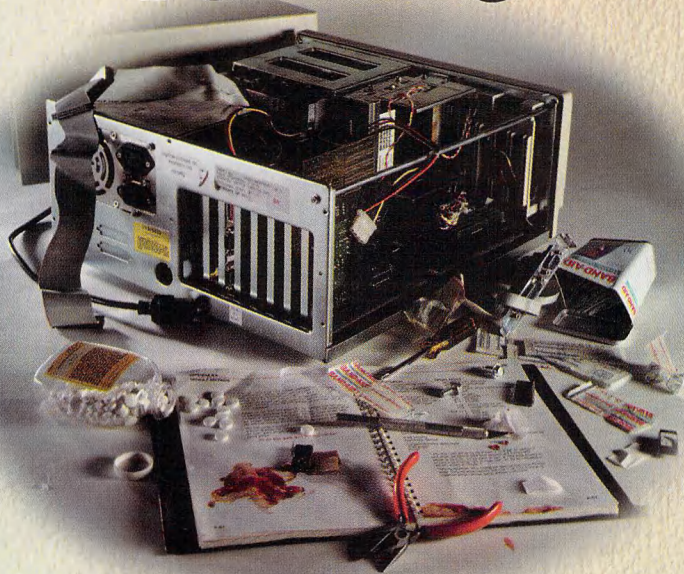
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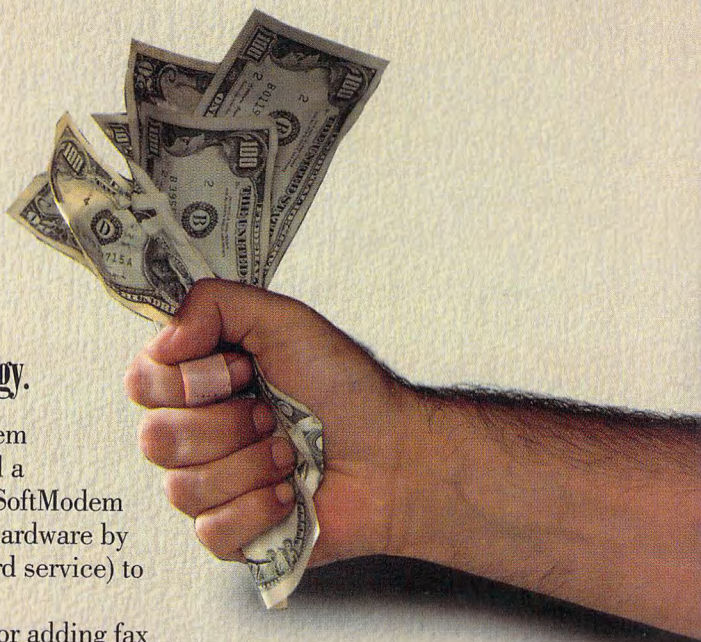
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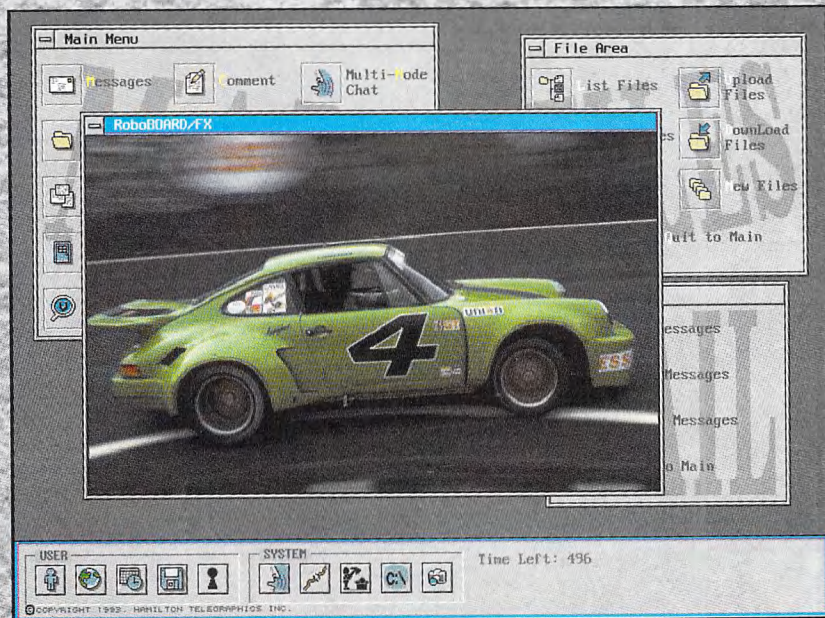
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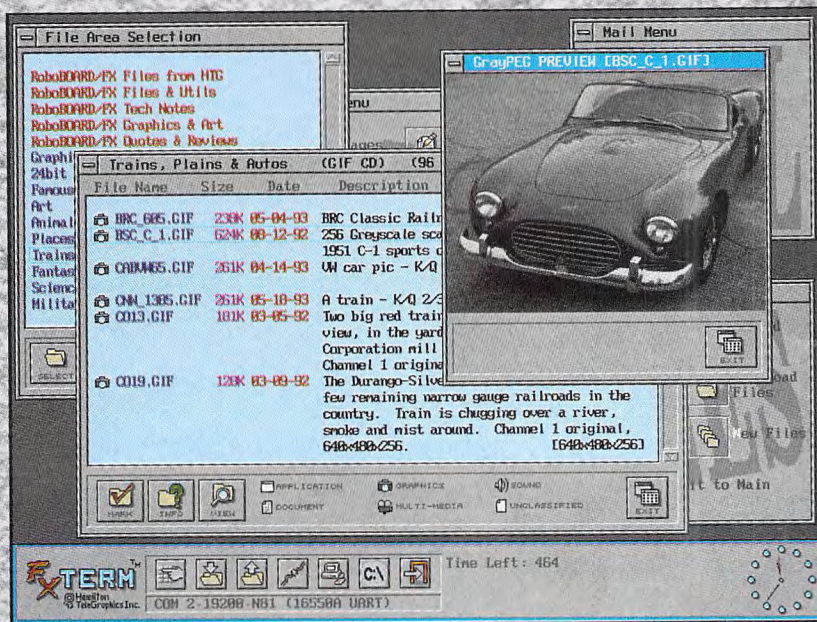
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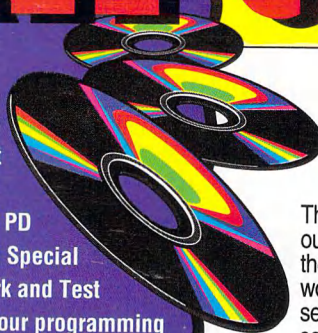


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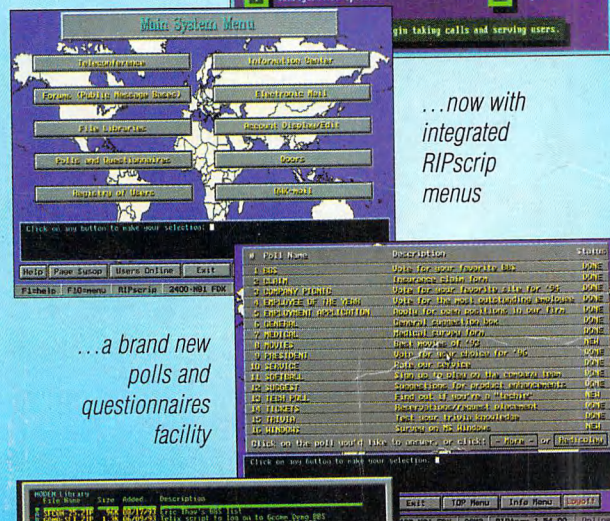
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